

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

**Army Guard may offer \$15,000 to recruit active duty**

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**U.S. to devote more troops to training Iraqis**

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**Owens to ignore doctor, try to play Super Bowl**

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Eagles' receiver Terrell Owens

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2005

# Deadliest day

- Super Stallion crash in Iraq kills 30 Marines, sailor
- 4 Marines, soldier killed in separate incidents
- Single-day toll highest since start of war

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CH-53E Super Stallion



**Type:** Heavy lift helicopter  
**Mission:** Transportation of material, supplies and troops  
**Crew:** Two pilots, one crewman  
**Features:** The helicopter seats 37 passengers in its normal configuration and has provisions to carry 55 passengers with centerline seats installed



Source: ESRI, USMC AP



THE (ARIZ.) SUN/AP

A U.S. Marine Corps CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter lands in Yuma, Ariz., in this 2003 photo. A Super Stallion, a larger variant of the Sea Stallion, crashed while transporting troops Wednesday in the western Iraqi desert, killing 30 Marines and a sailor.

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

### Military

**Cadet slaying:** A former U.S. Naval Academy midshipman serving a life sentence for her role in a teenager's slaying amid a love triangle wants a new trial, her attorney says.

Diane Zamora's attorney, David Richards, said Tarrant County, Texas, prosecutors withheld crucial evidence supporting Zamora's innocence. Zamora contended that she did not help her boyfriend kill high school classmate Adrienne Jones, 16, almost a decade ago.

Mike Parrish, Tarrant County's lead prosecutor in the case, called Zamora's latest appeal "completely bogus."

Prosecutors said Zamora wanted Jones dead out of jealousy because she thought her boyfriend had had sex with the Mansfield High School sophomore.

### World

**Kosovo government:** Kosovo's parliament elected Wednesday a Serb economist to head the ministry that will deal with the return of tens of thousands of minorities displaced in the aftermath of the war.

Petkovic's decision to join the Kosovo government was criticized by Serbia's envoy for Kosovo, Nebojsa Covic, who has urged the Serb representatives to stay out of the province's institutions despite international pressure to the contrary.

Members of the Serb minority have largely stayed out of Kosovo's newly formed institutions and boycotted the general elections, citing security fears and demanding a reform of local governance which would give them greater powers in areas where they live.

**Karzai trip:** Hamid Karzai flew to Tehran, Iran, on Wednesday for talks with Iranian leaders, his maiden official trip since inauguration as Afghanistan's first democratically elected president, a spokesman said.

Karzai was to hold talks with Iranian President Mohammad Khatami during the two-day visit, which was to end with the inauguration of new infrastructure projects at the countries' common border, spokesman Rafullah Mujaddedi said.

Karzai has vowed to revive historic trade routes to drum up customs revenues and build relationships with neighbors who sponsored unrest in Afghanistan in the past.

**Opium battle:** Facing opposition from Afghan President Hamid Karzai, the U.S. States has set aside plans to use spray planes to fumigate opium crops in Afghanistan, the world's largest drug producing country.

Karzai's opposition to spraying has frustrated some U.S. officials who doubt that the vast amount of opium produced in Afghanistan can be significantly cut off without spraying. Opium is the raw material for heroin. The United Nations says Afghanistan's drug trade has fueled terrorists.

Karzai believes aerial spraying could harm innocent villages.

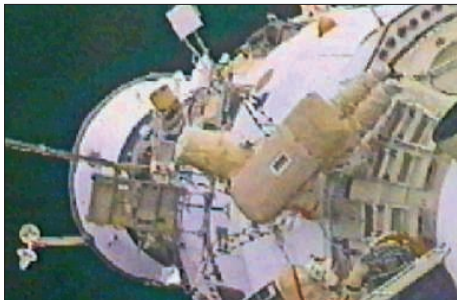
### States

**Church abuse scandals:** Prosecutors say news reports about the clergy sex abuse scandal plaguing the Boston Archdiocese triggered a man's memory of being molested by a parish priest in the 1980s.

But a lawyer for priest Paul Shanley, defrocked by the Vatican last year, questioned the timing and validity of those memories and said the defense would call expert witness to debunk the science behind so-called repressed memories.

The alleged victim is expected to take the stand Wednesday in the second day of Shanley's trial on child rape charges.

In opening statements Tuesday, Assistant District Attorney Lynn Rooney said Shanley told the victim, then 6, "If you tell no, no one



**International space station:** U.S. station commander Leroy Chiao, bottom right, holds a tool belt as Russian cosmonaut Salizhan Sharipov works on the exterior of the international space station during a televised space walk Wednesday. The two astronauts went outside their orbiting home to install an experimental robotic arm from Germany and inspect vents that might be causing air-supply equipment breakdowns. Leroy Chiao, the American commander, and Salizhan Sharipov, a Russian, found sticky stuff on the vents and hooked up the arm, solving a minor problem with a loose electrical connection on the elaborate robot system, shortly before the spacewalk drew to a close.

will believe you," before molesting him.

"Those memories were buried deep inside" until media coverage of the scandal in Boston awakened them, Rooney said.

Shanley's lawyer, Frank Mondano, said the accuser made up the allegations to get in on the multimillion-dollar settlements for victims in the scandal.

**NIH whistleblower:** A government scientist who blew the whistle on shoddy research had been recommended for a cash bonus, but his bosses pulled it back and tried to fire him after the scientist raised allegations of interference with his safety work, memos show.

"This is going to take some work," National Institutes of Health AIDS Division Director Dr. Edmund Tramont wrote Feb. 23, 2004, in an e-mail that laid out plans to fire whistleblower Dr. Jonathan Fishbein. "In Clauswitzian style, we must overwhelm with force," Tramont wrote, referring to 19th-century Prussian military strategist Carl von Clausewitz.

Just weeks earlier, Tramont had recommended Fishbein for a \$2,500 award for his first-year performance and sent an e-mail praising Fishbein for improving AIDS research safety and compliance, according to memos.

Since Fishbein's allegations of shoddy government research practices and poor patient protections inside NIH were reported in the press, the agency has said he was being fired for poor performance while on probation.

**Ground Zero hazard:** High levels of asbestos, lead and other contaminants have been found in a vacant skyscraper badly damaged during the 2001 terror attacks in New York, potentially complicating the rebuilding of Ground Zero.

A consultant to the Lower Manhattan Development Corp. revealed the findings at a public hearing where neighbors, environmental advocates and union representatives talked about their concerns over plans to dismantle the 40-story Deutsche Bank building.

The consultant said concentrations of asbestos, lead and silica on the building's exterior and in elevator shafts, conduits and ductwork exceeded benchmarks set by the Environmental Protection Agency, The New York Times reported Wednesday.

Critics of the plan fear the demolition will kick contaminants into the air and that workers inside the building would not be ade-

quately protected.

**Cosby allegations:** Prosecutors say they want to interview Bill Cosby after meeting with a former Temple University employee who alleges the comedian fondled her in his suburban Philadelphia home.

Investigators also are interviewing other potential witnesses before deciding whether any charges are warranted, the Montgomery County district attorney said Monday.

Cosby, 67, a Temple alumnus and booster, was a close friend and mentor to the 31-year-old woman, her parents said.

She went to Canadian authorities on Jan. 13, contending Cosby had given her some medication and later fondled her in his Cheltenham Township mansion a year earlier, after they and others met for dinner.

**Big Dig investigation:** An investigation of tunnel leaks in the Big Dig highway project in Boston was repeatedly hindered by officials of the top contractor and the state agency that manages it, says the retired judge who led the probe.

State officials had too close a relationship with the private contractor, said retired probate court Judge Edward M. Ginsburg.

"They were all married to each other," he told The Boston Globe.

Meanwhile, the Boston Herald reported Tuesday its own review of public records shows that taxpayers paid to fix construction mistakes costing millions of dollars — money which may never be recovered.

**Philadelphia corruption case:** The mayor's top political aide testified that part of his job was to make sure "supporters of the mayor's vision" were rewarded with city contracts — but later denied money changed hands.

When pressed by prosecutors, George Burrell denied the administration of Mayor John F. Street was trading contracts for campaign contributions.

"There are a number of ways to support that vision, other than giving money," said Burrell, the mayor's secretary of external affairs.

The case has revolved around allegations that business executives seeking city contracts carried favor with the Street administration by donating to the mayor's political campaigns and by making payments to one of his close associates, the late Ronald A. White.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

# 36 troops killed in Iraq crash, attacks

## 31 die in copter crash; 5 others die in ambushes

BY SAMEER N. YACUB

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A U.S. military transport helicopter crashed during sandstorms in Iraq's western desert Wednesday, killing 30 Marines and one sailor, while insurgents killed five other American troops in the deadliest day for U.S. forces since the Iraq war began.

Army Gen. John Abizaid, chief of U.S. Central Command, said the helicopter was on a routine mission in support of Sunday's elections in Iraq. Abizaid, in Washington to brief members of Congress on the war effort, said the cause of the crash was still under investigation.

A Bush administration official said the cause of Wednesday's crash was not immediately known but that there was bad weather at the time. An Accu-weather map of Iraq showed sandstorms Wednesday in the western region of Iraq near the Jordanian border where the crash took place.

The CH-53 Super Stallion was carrying personnel from the 1st Marine Division when it went down about 1.20 a.m. near the town of Rutbah, about 220 miles west of Baghdad, while conducting security operations, the military said in a statement.

A search and rescue team has reached the site and an investigation into what caused the crash was under way.

Lt. Gen. John Sattler, commander of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in Iraq, said 30 Marines and one sailor died in the crash — the most American servicemen to die in a single incident in Iraq. It was also the deadliest day for U.S. forces since the March 2003 invasion.

Bush expressed his condolences



An Iraqi family watches U.S. soldiers search homes Wednesday on a mission preparing for upcoming elections in Mosul, Iraq. U.S. and Iraqi officials fear a spike in bloodshed and have announced massive security measures to protect voters from possible insurgent attacks during the elections.

for the deaths. "The story today is going to be very discouraging to the American people. I understand that. It is the long-term objective that it is vital — that is to spread freedom," he told reporters.

He said "a lot of Iraqis" were expected to participate in the elections. "Clearly, there are some who are intimidated," Bush said. "I urge people to vote. I urge people to defy these terrorists."

In Iraq's Anbar province, four U.S. Marines were killed in fighting, the military said in a statement.

The statement gave no further details, but WABC reporter Jim Dolan, who was embedded with the troops who were attacked, said the deaths came when insurgents ambushed a Marine convoy leaving the town of Haditha, west

of Baghdad, hitting a vehicle with a rocket-propelled grenade.

Also Wednesday, insurgents attacked a U.S. Army patrol near the northern town of Duluyah, killing one soldier and wounding two others, the U.S. command said.

The previous single deadliest incident for U.S. troops was also a helicopter crash: In November 2004, two Black Hawk helicopters collided while trying to avoid ground fire, killing 17 service members.

The U.S. military has lost at least 33 helicopters since the start of the war, including at least 20 brought down by hostile fire, according to a study by the Brookings Institution.

Previously, the most Americans killed in one day came on March 23, 2003, when 28 troops were killed in various incidents

during the U.S. military's drive to take Baghdad and topple Saddam Hussein.

Meanwhile, militants waging a campaign to derail Sunday's election carried out at least six car bombings and a flurry of other attacks on schools to be used as polling stations, political party offices and Kurdish sites, killing or wounding more than 20 dozen people.

While al-Qaida warned Iraqis to stay away from the polls — saying they would only have themselves to blame if they are hurt in attacks — President Bush called on people to "defy the terrorists" and cast ballots in the crucial election.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, at least 1,379 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,080 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is seven higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Tuesday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,241 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at

## Deadly days for American troops in Iraq

The Associated Press

■ **Jan. 26:** U.S. military transport helicopter crashes in bad weather in Iraq's western desert, killing 30 Marines and one sailor. In addition, insurgents kill five other American troops.

■ **March 23, 2003:** 28 American troops killed, including 11 in ambush of 507th Maintenance Company convoy in Nasiriyah in which Army Pvt. Jessica Lynch and six others were captured.

■ **Nov. 15, 2003:** Two Black Hawk helicopters collide and crash in Mosul, apparently hit by ground fire, killing 17 American troops.

■ **Nov. 2, 2003:** U.S. Chinook helicopter carrying troops heading for leave is struck by missile and crashes west of Baghdad, killing 16 soldiers, wounding more than 20.

■ **Dec. 21, 2004:** A suicide bomb attack at a news tent in a base near Mosul kills 22 people including 14 U.S. soldiers.

■ **April 6, 2004:** In Ramadi, 12 Marines battling insurgents are killed in an ambush.

■ **April 3, 2003:** Eleven soldiers killed in combat or die in accidents. The day before, 10 American soldiers died.

■ **Jan. 8, 2004:** Black Hawk medevac helicopter apparently shot down, crashes near Fallujah, killing all nine soldiers aboard.

■ **Nov. 7, 2003:** Black Hawk helicopter apparently downed by rocket-propelled grenade, killing six soldiers.

Source: Associated Press news reports

## Fatal helicopter crashes in Iraq war

The Associated Press

■ **Jan. 26:** A CH-53 Super Stallion transport helicopter crashed in bad weather in western Iraq, killing 30 Marines and one sailor aboard.

■ **Dec. 10, 2004:** An AH-64 Apache attack helicopter collided with a UH-60 Black Hawk that was on the ground at an air base in Mosul, killing two U.S. soldiers and injuring four.

■ **Oct. 16, 2004:** Two OH-58 Kiowa helicopters crashed in southwest Baghdad, killing two and wounding two. It was unclear whether hostile fire brought the aircraft down.

■ **April 11, 2004:** Gunmen shot down an Apache attack helicopter in western Baghdad, killing its two crew members.

■ **Feb. 25, 2004:** A Kiowa crashed in a river west of Baghdad, killing the two crewmen-

bers on board. A witness saw a missile hit one of two helicopters in the area.

■ **Jan. 23, 2004:** A Kiowa crashed near the northern town of Qayyarah, killing the two pilots. The cause of the crash was unclear.

■ **Jan. 8, 2004:** A Black Hawk medevac helicopter crashed near Fallujah, killing all nine soldiers on board. A witness said a rocket hit the tail.

■ **Jan. 2, 2004:** A Kiowa was shot down near Fallujah, killing its pilot and wounding another soldier.

■ **Nov. 15, 2003:** Two Black Hawks crashed in Mosul, killing 17 soldiers and injuring five. The military said the helicopters collided during a likely rocket-propelled grenade attack.

■ **Nov. 7, 2003:** A Black Hawk was downed near Tikrit, apparent-

ly by a rocket-propelled grenade, killing all six on board.

■ **Nov. 2, 2003:** A Chinook transport helicopter was shot down near Fallujah, killing 16 and injuring 26. The military believed a SA-7 shoulder-fired missile struck an engine.

■ **May 19, 2003:** A CH-46 Sea Knight transport helicopter crashed shortly after takeoff in the Shatt al-Hillah Canal in Hillah, about 60 miles south of Baghdad, killing four Marines. Another Marine drowned trying to rescue them. The crash appeared to be accidental.

■ **May 9, 2003:** A Black Hawk crashed near Samarra, killing three soldiers, in an apparent accident.

■ **March 20, 2003:** A Sea Knight crashed in Kuwait, about nine miles from the Iraq border, killing eight British troops and four U.S. Marines. No hostile fire was reported in the area.

least 971 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ **Five soldiers** died Monday when a medical vehicle rolled into a canal northeast of Baghdad, while patrolling during a sandstorm.

■ **A soldier** was killed by an explosive Monday in western Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the Defense Department:

■ **Army Sgt. Leonard W. Adams, 42, Mooreville, N.C.;** died Monday in Camp Bucca, Iraq, of noncombat injuries, assigned to the Army National Guard's 105th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade, Asheville, N.C.

■ **Army Staff Sgt. Jose C. Rangel, 43, Saratoga, Calif.;** died Sunday in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, of noncombat injuries, assigned to the Army National Guard's 116th Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot, Fresno, Calif.

# This Buffalo is the hunter, not the hunted

'SUV on steroids' helps GIs determine whether roadside finds are IEDs or just debris

BY JASON CHUDY  
Stars and Stripes

ABU GHRAIB, Iraq — In the hunt for roadside bombs, the best technology in the world doesn't stand up against four sets of eyeballs.

"It's not an exact science," said Sgt. Rashe Hall of Company B, 27th Engineer Battalion from Fort Bragg, N.C. "It's just the guys looking for them."

Hall leads a four-man team of soldiers in the large, six-wheeled, heavily armored beast known as the Buffalo to search the roads around Abu Ghraib.

Altogether, 15 soldiers from the company are assigned to the Task Force Iron Claw roadside bomb patrols for the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment.

Two or three times a day a team drives its Buffalo slowly down the town's main roads looking for something — anything — that doesn't look right.

"As many times as we go, [if we] see something suspicious ... we take a second look," said Pfc. Samuel Gill, who operates the Buffalo's 30-foot remote-controlled arm.

The soldiers will use the arm to poke and prod trash, rubble or even a dead dog to see if it contains a bomb, which soldiers call an IED, or improvised explosive device.

Pfc. Kenneth Johnson, the Buffalo's assistant navigator, said the soldiers recently found one made up of two large-caliber artillery shells wrapped in a bag, covered in rubble at the base of a concrete sign. A black wire leading from the rubble was the only indication that the pile needed a closer look.



JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Pfc. Shayne Cossette stands in front of the Buffalo roadside bomb hunting vehicle that he drives through Abu Ghraib, Iraq. Teams of four soldiers from Company B, 27th Engineer Battalion, run the Buffalos along the city's main routes. In less than two months the unit's soldiers have found nine roadside bombs.

"Every day we learn something new," said Hall, 23, of Ventura, Calif. "Just because you saw it [before] doesn't mean it won't be something next time."

The unit has found nine IEDs in its two months of searching Abu Ghraib's streets and has put 2,400 kilometers of its Buffalo.

The three Buffalos working in the 1st Cavalry Division around Baghdad have cleared nearly 36,000 kilometers of roads and found 222 IEDs.

And a fourth Buffalo recently joined the hunt.

With its large viewing windows along the length of its body and big passenger's compartment, the Buffalo gives soldiers a commanding view of the road.

From the outside, the vehicle looks like an SUV on steroids, seating six with plenty of legroom, air conditioning and a rifle holder at each seat.

But it wasn't designed for com-

fort; it was designed to find bombs. The Buffalo has cameras that allow the soldiers to see at night and a radio frequency jammer to foil remote-control triggered IEDs.

And if a bomb does go off, the Buffalo can survive the explosion. "It's overall a well-built vehicle," said Hall. "It can always drive back on its own, dragging whatever it's got on it and running on flats."

Johnson watched a bomb ex-

plode at the end of a Buffalo's mechanical arm in November. He was in a Humvee about 150 meters from the blast.

"When it first blew ... I thought people inside would be hurt," said the 19-year-old native of Ball Ground, Ga. "When I found out nobody was hurt, it gave me a lot more confidence in the Buffalo."

"It's 24 tons of rolling steel," said driver Pfc. Shayne Cossette. Finding an IED doesn't bother the 20-year-old GI "unless it's monstrous," said the Morris, Okla., native. "I'm more worried about rocket-propelled grenades."

The soldiers said that RPG teams have targeted Buffalos in the past because the team's hunting skills put a dent in the insurgents' plans. The unit averages about one IED per week, meaning that the majority of its patrols, which last about four to six hours, are uneventful.

"I don't get bored," said Cossette, 22, of Norwood, Mass. "Usually I'm driving and focusing on different things. I'm always keeping track of something: speed, pace, and what's on the side of the road."

When they do find something, their patience pays off.

"It feels good to finally find what you're looking for after maybe 30 hours of looking," said Cossette.

"With the Buffalo, they get to see their results," Hall said of the unit's soldiers. "It clicks for them. It's one of the things that gives us a sense of accomplishment."

"We're the peacekeepers here," said Gill, "whether [those of] soldiers or kids out in the street."

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JOSEPH GIORDONO/Stars and Stripes

A soldier from Company C, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry peers out from a courtyard during a joint patrol with Iraqi forces Tuesday in Ramadi, Iraq.

## Patrols help locals get used to Iraqi forces

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO  
Stars and Stripes

RAMADI, Iraq — Even though their focus is on the Iraqi election just days away, U.S. soldiers continue mixing other essential tasks into their daily missions.

In Ramadi, one of the important jobs at hand is introducing residents to the Iraqi forces that might soon be responsible for security in the city, which continues to see almost-daily attacks by insurgents.

"We want to introduce you to the Iraqi forces who will be working with us and hopefully staying here after we leave," 2nd Lt. Tad Tsuneyoshi, of Company C, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry, told one family Tuesday, gesturing to a group of Iraqi Special Police Commandos.

"We know the black masks are different," said Tsuneyoshi, a 23-year-old from Honolulu, referring to the ski masks worn by some members of the Iraqi force so insurgents cannot identify them or attack them when they are off duty. "But they are professionals. And they are working with us to bring security."

The patrol visited several residential blocks and a local mosque, mixing their security message with election information handouts — and the occasional warning.

*Medic Staff Sgt. John Ivie recommended the man stop smoking. Immediately after hearing the advice, the man nodded, agreed, and lit a cigarette.*

When the soldiers entered one compound, a man sprinted out the back and tried to run away. Soldiers quickly tracked him down and brought him back to the house. The man turned out to be a former military intelligence official in Saddam Hussein's army and was suspected of helping insurgent cells in Ramadi.

Two other men arrived at the house shortly, inquiring about their friend.

"You see that airplane up there?" asked Tsuneyoshi, gesturing to an unmanned aerial vehicle circling above. "We can see into buildings. We can hear your phone calls. We have sensors all over the city."

Whether true or not, the two men got the message. The former intelligence official, who was caught with an assault rifle and a

cell phone that received text messages while the soldiers questioned him, was detained and taken to a U.S. holding facility.

Other than a series of mortar rounds and a U.S. battery firing back, Company C didn't hear a shot fired. A few blocks over, though, Company D took fire on the same streets where they engaged insurgents the day before. The company also reported killing at least one insurgent, who had fired a rocket-propelled grenade at the patrol.

Back with Company C, medic Staff Sgt. John Ivie, 24, of Eden, N.C., was asked to treat an elderly couple who had been over the U.S. troops. The woman complained of pain in her legs; the man said he had shortness of breath.

Ivie issued the man stop smoking, a habit he had for 40 of his 70 years. Immediately after hearing the advice, the man nodded, agreed, and lit a cigarette.

The Iraqi commandos, who served with U.S. forces in Afghanistan, offered a message of their own for Ramadi residents. The commandos told residents not to tolerate outsiders bringing violence to their neighborhoods and to help joint patrols by reporting anything suspicious.

"What happened in Fallujah," one of the commandos told a Ramadi resident, "take care. It doesn't happen here."

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JOSEPH GIORDONO/Stripes

An elderly Iraqi woman cries and waves a white cloth attached to a stick as U.S. soldiers detain men in a Ramadi, Iraq, house raid early Wednesday morning.

## New Iraq election curfews ban travel

BY BASSEM MROUE  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The government announced Wednesday that it would ban travel between provinces and extend the hours of curfew as part of heightened security before the weekend national elections.

Interior Minister Falah al-Naqib said security in four tense provinces where it had been said that elections would be difficult has improved by 80 percent.

"We have been able to go past this," he added, apparently referring to the provinces of Baghdad, Anbar, Salaheddin and Ninevah.

Al-Naqib said the curfew would be extended from 7 p.m. until 6 a.m. starting Friday evening until Tuesday. The election of a 275-member National Assembly and provincial legislators is Sunday.

During that period, only vehicles with special permits would be allowed to travel between Iraq's 18 provinces.

The government has already announced plans to close Baghdad International Airport and seal the nation's borders during the election period. Weapons will be banned, and al-Naqib announced rewards for Iraqis who turn in "terrorists."

He said police officers who de-



Supporters cruise through the streets of Baghdad on Wednesday with their vehicles covered by election posters of Shiite clerics. Iraqis are to choose a 275-member National Assembly and legislatures in each of the 18 provinces in Sunday's balloting.

tain or give information about terrorists or stop car bombs will get special rewards that could be as high as \$200,000.

Movement of all unauthorized vehicles will be banned on election day. Local police chiefs in different provinces have the right to extend the controls throughout the elections period. Gathering outside polling stations will be banned, the minister said.

Insurgents have been attacking places to be used as polling stations, election workers and candidates in their attempt to disrupt the elections. They have also warned people against voting, saying they will launch bloody attacks on elections day.

Al-Naqib said the government was determined to hold the election throughout the country — regardless of insurgent threats.

"We have full confidence that together, based on these mea-

# GIs early morning raid traps 5 men in Ramadi

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO  
Stars and Stripes

RAMADI, Iraq — U.S. soldiers detained five men in pre-dawn raids Wednesday in Ramadi, using darkness and the early hour to make the arrests without resistance.

The soldiers, from Company B, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, scaled a courtyard wall and entered the houses around 4 a.m., looking for specific men they suspect of conducting attacks and aiding insurgents in the city.

Soldiers identified one of the men as their primary target, immediately separating him from the other men and women found in the houses. Later, on instructions from their commanders, the soldiers detained four more men found in the same house.

While soldiers inside sorted out the situation, engineers and other teams searched the buildings and yards for suspected weapons caches. Other than cellular

phones and lists of contacts — which soldiers thought could be insurgent cells — nothing else was found.

While the troops secured the detainees with plastic cuffs and fashioned blindfolds from rolls of toilet paper and duct tape, the women in the house sobbed and asked for the men to be released.

One elderly woman, who said she was the wife of one of the men and mother of a couple of the others, huddled in a doorway crying, waving a white cloth attached to a stick. Her daughter stood above her, trying to calm her.

The entire operation lasted just more than an hour, with the troops returning to their bases just as the earliest calls to prayer were sounding in mosques throughout town.

U.S. troops have been undertaking targeted raids in Ramadi in the days leading up to Sunday's elections, hoping to disrupt insur-

gent cells before they have a chance to attack. Intelligence officials from 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, which commands the troops in Ramadi and deployed from South Korea to Iraq last fall, have said several cells are operating in and around the city.

The cells have different tactics and goals, officials have said, but share one common purpose: to intimidate Ramadi citizens into staying away from the polls. In recent days, U.S. and Iraqi joint patrols have gone from house to house encouraging residents to participate.

The job of securing polling sites, which U.S. officials said would begin by midweek, will be split between the 150,000 U.S. troops in Iraq and thousands of U.S.-trained and supported Iraqi forces. U.S. officials have said a reconstituted and independent Iraqi security force would allow U.S. troops to return home.

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## Both sides could claim victory after Iraqi vote

The Dallas Morning News

LONDON — Only days away from Iraq's national elections, voters still don't know exactly who is running for office, where they can cast ballots or even how they'll get to the polls because of all the security precautions in place. Candidates are too afraid to show their faces in public.

Conditions for Sunday's vote, the first open election in 50 years, will be far from perfect. But for many Iraqis and the U.S. administration, success will be measured not by the election's outcome but merely that it happened at all.

For the opponents of the election — mainly Sunni Muslims — success will be defined by the numbers of voters frightened away from the polls.

It is possible that both sides can emerge with a credible claim that they prevailed in the test of wills

over the country's future because, although many Iraqis are expected to participate, large numbers will stay at home as well. But Iraqis and foreign analysts agree that the elections alone are not going to stem the violence that has shredded Iraqi society over the past year.

More than 7,000 candidates — many of whom are keeping their names secret to protect themselves and their families from attack — are vying for 275 seats in the Iraqi Transitional National Assembly. At least 9,000 other candidates are seeking election to local and provincial governments.

A leading militant group linked to al-Qaida declared this week that anyone who participates — including voters, candidates and 130,000 election workers — would be deemed collaborators with the foreign occupation of Iraq and, therefore, subject to attack.

### Iraqi expatriate voter registration low

GENEVA — Less than 25 percent of eligible Iraqi expatriates have signed up to vote in Sunday's elections, officials said Tuesday, the last day for overseas registration.

In the United States, registration is running at about 10 percent.

International figures from the first eight days of registration — excluding Tuesday — showed that more than 25,500 Iraqis signed up for the vote, according to the International Organization for Migration. The Geneva-based body is handling voter registration outside Iraq.

"You have to see the positive side," IOM spokesman Jean-Philippe Chazuy told The Associated Press. "More than a quarter of a million have made the effort to go and register to vote."

The U.N.-affiliated IOM said it expected registration numbers to increase as the deadline approaches.

An estimated 1.2 million Iraqi exiles can vote in 14 countries, including the United States, over a three-day period starting Friday.

From wire reports

# MOD rethinks focus on conventional warfare

BY BRADLEY GRAHAM

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has drafted terms for an ambitious reshaping of U.S. forces that would put less emphasis on waging conventional warfare and more on dealing with insurgencies, terrorist networks, failed states and other nontraditional threats, according to senior defense officials and others familiar with the confidential planning.

This proposed shift in strategic focus stems partly from a recognition that U.S. forces were inadequately prepared for the insurgency in Iraq and the wider hunt for terrorists around the world.

But officials said it also grows out of a heightened perception of other potential threats.

The new thinking has emerged in a classified document being readied for Defense

## Proposal emphasizes insurgencies, terror networks

Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's signature by the Pentagon's policy branch in coordination with the Joint Staff and service representatives. The document, called the "Terms of Reference," sets the framework for the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), which Congress has mandated to compile a look at U.S. military strategy at the start of each presidential term.

By giving a higher priority to a larger set of possible security challenges, the initiative goes beyond notions of military transformation the Bush administration has previously touted, the officials said. But with months of internal Pentagon wrangling still ahead over which programs to favor and which to cut, the ultimate result is far from certain.

This intensified push for change comes

at a time when the Iraq conflict and war on terrorism have badly taxed the U.S. military, especially the Army, requiring more forces and longer deployments than anticipated and highlighting shortfalls in U.S. capabilities. Recent experience has shown that while the Pentagon remains flush with planes, ships and precision-guided munitions — all useful in large conventional battles — it is desperately short of other kinds of troops, weapons and specialized skills important in unconventional conflicts and postwar reconstruction.

"The traditional focus was on conventional military threats," Douglas Feith, the Pentagon's policy chief, said in an interview.

"We're now talking about things much broader than that."

This evolution in strategy could have sig-

nificant budgetary consequences, officials said. It would divert some resources from major weapons programs, such as tactical fighter jets and aircraft carriers, and toward more ground troops — or a different mix of troops favoring specialized areas such as intelligence gathering, foreign-language skills and civil affairs work. It also would mean less investment in new technologies, such as improved drone aircraft, computer network defenses, and measures for countering biological or chemical attacks, officials said.

Just how much change will ensue is difficult to predict. Facing a huge federal budget deficit and mounting war costs in Iraq, Pentagon officials could feel greater pressure to make hard choices than they did during President Bush's first term. Even so, history has shown that military, business and political groups with vested interests in existing programs have often frustrated attempts at sweeping change.

# MOD rethinks focus on conventional warfare

## Proposal emphasizes insurgencies, terror networks

BY WILL LESTER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Some of President Bush's bedrock supporters — Southerners and rural residents — have lost confidence in the likelihood of a stable, democratic Iraq.

Exploiting over the swift toppling of Saddam Hussein's regime has been dimmed by the violent struggle to install a new Iraqi government. If it continues, the decline in optimism among groups that were part of Bush's base vote in November could make it harder to rally congressional support for his Iraq policies.

The Army plans to keep troop strength in Iraq at current levels through 2006, which would include the November midterm elections.

In Iraq, elections for a 275-member parliament are scheduled Sunday. U.S. officials expect the days leading up to it to bring even more of the deadly insurgent attacks that for months have targeted U.S. troops.

More than half of Americans polled by The Associated Press in mid-January — 53 percent — said they think it's unlikely that a stable, democratic Iraq will be established, while 46 percent said that is likely.

In mid-April, 55 percent of Americans said they thought a stable, democratic Iraq was likely.

Optimism has waned in the last eight months in almost every group of Americans. But it remains strongest among Republicans and suburbanites, especially men, and those who are married, according to polls conducted for the AP by Ipsos-Public Affairs.

Some of the larger declines in optimism came among Southerners, Northeasterners, rural Americans and women 45 and over. Other groups that showed a significant decline were those with incomes between \$25,000 and \$50,000 a year, young men, those without college educations — groups very likely to know people serving in Iraq.

"The trend in public opinion about the war has been steadily coming down for two years," said Charles Franklin, a political scientist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, who has been closely watching the trends. "The presidential campaign halted the slide. It tended to connect feelings about Iraq to how people were voting."

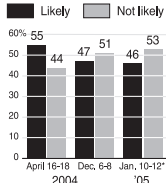
"Now that the election is over, people have a more independent view of the war," Franklin said.

AP-IPPOS POLL

## People polled doubt stability in Iraq

The mood of Americans has shifted in recent weeks with more doubting there will be a concrete democracy in Iraq.

How likely is it that a stable, democratic government will be established in Iraq?



\* 1,000 adults; margin of error ± 3.1

Source: Ipsos-Public Affairs for AP

## Robbery accusations

FORT COCKER, Colo. — Four soldiers with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team were fined and demoted for an Iraqi convenience store break-in that netted about \$20 worth of cigarettes, soda and candy, according to recently released files.

Other charges involving nine 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment soldiers who allegedly robbed Iraqis they stopped at a checkpoint near their base in western Iraq were not prosecuted because Army investigators could not find the names of Iraqi victims, according to documents obtained Tuesday by the Gazette of Colorado Springs.

Of the four soldiers who were punished in the convenience store robbery, one was kicked out of the Army after shooting himself in the foot to avoid punishment for allegedly stealing \$100 in Iraqi currency during a house-to-house search, the report said.

## Afghan security

KABUL, Afghanistan — Security in Afghanistan's troubled south will improve drastically in the next six months, paving the way for NATO to replace U.S. forces in the whole of the country, a senior alliance commander forecast Wednesday.

Lt. Gen. Jean-Louis Py also urged in Afghanistan's troubled south will improve drastically in the next six months, paving the way for NATO to replace U.S. forces in the whole of the country, a senior alliance commander forecast Wednesday.

Speaking at the end of his six months in charge of NATO's 8,000-strong International Security Assistance Force, Py said war-fatigue, the country's democratic rebirth and the American military campaign against the Taliban were bringing stability to Afghanistan, three years after the fall of the Taliban.

The alliance aims to take its operation into southern Afghanistan by early 2006 and eventually to the whole country, largely replacing the U.S.-led combat force.

From The Associated Press

# More troops to accompany Iraqis under training plan

BY PAULINE JELINEK

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. commanders are devising a plan for as many as 10,000 soldiers and Marines to accompany Iraqi units as advisers and trainers, a substantial increase from the few thousand doing such work now, defense officials say.

The theory is that after Sunday's election some U.S. troops will begin focusing less on directly fighting insurgents and more on training Iraqi forces to do it themselves.

This latest proposal to accelerate the troubled training program comes amid rising calls in Washington for the Bush administration to start working on plans for a phased withdrawal of troops from Iraq. There also is concern that U.S. offensive operations are becoming anger among Iraqis.

Interim Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said Tuesday it was too soon to talk about a pullout, adding that U.S. troops could not leave until Iraq builds up its security forces. "Setting final dates will be futile and dangerous," he said in Baghdad.

Indeed, the Army disclosed that it was planning to keep troop levels in Iraq at the current level of roughly 120,000 for another two years.

That could change as security gets better or worse, Lt. Gen. James J. Lovelace Jr. told reporters Monday, but official planning is for little change in numbers through 2006.

Advisers in the expanded training plan would come from U.S. units already in Iraq, where some U.S. teams already are working with Iraqi units, doing joint patrols and fighting side by side.

Commanders want to expand the program countrywide and have talked about several possible numbers, including a 10,000-man total.

No decision had been announced as of Tuesday. But the idea is to make training the No. 1 priority of U.S. forces in Iraq and gradually pull Iraqis out front in the fight, one senior official said on condition of anonymity. He suggested that American forces may be nearing the point at which they will be gaining diminishing returns on their combat operations.

Counting all the military services, the United States has 150,000 troops in Iraq, spends

more than \$1 billion a week and is continually killing and capturing suspected insurgents.

Still, the level of insurgent activity is about the same as it was six months ago. U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte said Sunday.

A statement from coalition forces in Baghdad last week said that enough progress had been made in training Iraqis that it "has prompted the coalition to focus in 2005 on transitioning the counter-insurgency fight" to local forces.

Officials have been working for months to accelerate training of Iraqi forces, which have suffered from desertions, low morale and leadership problems.

The Pentagon early this month sent retired Army Gen. Gary E. Luck to help the Iraq government and U.S. commanders develop an accelerated program.

Some experts have suggested that new Iraqi officials elected Sunday may be more eager to ask the U.S. military to leave. But the United States hopes that an elected Iraqi government might command broader public support in the campaign against the insurgents and says any new government will know it needs continued coalition help.

# Viscek mourns 5 lost in Bradley accident

## Days before Iraq deployment ends, deaths felt deeply

BY RICK EMERT  
Stars and Stripes

The Viscek, Germany, community is coming to grips with a Bradley fighting vehicle accident in Khan Bani Saad, Iraq, that killed five 3rd Brigade Combat Team soldiers on the countdown.

On Monday to the end of the 1st Infantry Division's deployment has dwindled down to days, but Viscek families and soldiers now must pause and prepare for another memorial service.

The soldiers involved in the accident had not been identified, pending notification of next of kin. "They have been gearing up for the homecoming, not another memorial service," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Paul Kauffman, 3rd Brigade Combat Team rear detachment chaplain. "The spouses who are waiting for their soldiers to come back have been affected by this. They were thinking they were over the hump."

It was the second time that five

soldiers were killed in one incident during the 1st ID's deployment to Iraq, the division's largest loss of life in a single incident. Five soldiers were killed in a car bombing in Samarra in July.

Losing five soldiers in one day so close to the end of the deployment — and in an accident — only adds to the pain, said Maj. Brian Maddox, 3rd Brigade rear detachment officer in charge.

"The number is the first thing that gets attention, the magnitude of it," Maddox said. "It's tragic in and of itself to lose soldiers, but the fact that it was an accident makes it doubly tragic."

"When you know that soldiers are in a combat area, you expect casualties, but you don't expect these kinds of things," he said. "They sneak up on you. It has hit all of the [3rd Brigade] spouses. They have been worn down over this year."

The 3rd Brigade has endured its share of casualties during the deployment. In November, the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment

lost its command sergeant major, a company commander, a company executive officer and a team non-commissioned officer within one week in the battle for Fallujah. More than 700 people from the community turned out for the Nov. 17 memorial service to honor Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Paulsenburg, Capt. Sean Sims, 1st Lt. Edward Iwan and Sgt. James Mattheson. Sims' wife, Heidi, also was a teacher at Viscek Elementary School.

The same resources the rear detachment used to help families of 2-2 Infantry cope then are in place now, Maddox said.

"We have lined up mental health counselors and social workers with units and family members," Maddox said.

The rear detachment will offer small group sessions with the counselors and chaplains to help families from the community cope with their grief and talk about their fears and worries concerning their own soldiers who are still deployed, Maddox said.



**"It's tragic in and of itself to lose soldiers, but the fact that it was an accident makes it doubly tragic."**

Maj. Brian Maddox

3rd Brigade rear detachment officer in charge

Additionally, Department of Defense Dependents Schools has a crisis intervention plan set up at each school, said Frank O'Gara, DODDS-Europe spokesman.

The crisis-reaction teams are comprised of the schools' principals and representatives from organizations such as Army Community Service, which would normally provide services for families.

"When a child loses a parent, it's not only the child who is affected, but very often the whole class," O'Gara said. "For instance, if it is a fourth-grade class, all of the other fourth-graders may start thinking: 'Will my daddy be next?' or 'Will my mommy be next?'"

There is little that 3rd Brigade can say about the soldiers until next of kin have been notified, including whether they were married or single or if they have family members in Europe. But as far as the 3rd Brigade is concerned, it has lost members of its family.

"In general, everybody will be affected by this, because we lost soldiers from the community," Kauffman said. "Even if they were not personally connected to them, those soldiers were part of the 3rd Brigade family."

A memorial service is tentatively scheduled for 1 p.m. Monday at the Viscek Chapel.

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## More benefits sought for kids of troops lost in Iraq

BY LISA HOFFMAN

Scriptis Howard News Service

WASHINGTON — As the number of American children who have lost a parent in the Iraq war edges toward 1,000, a measure now before Congress would boost government benefits for them.

On Monday, Sen. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, and Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., introduced legislation that would create for the first time a \$25,000 death benefit for children of GI's who die on active duty.

The bill also would extend the time the children would qualify for military health insurance and more than triple the compensation each child gets monthly.

"We owe the families of those who have lost loved ones in active duty our gratitude and support," DeWine said in a statement.

"Caring for the families who have lost so much is one of the costs of going to war."

Through the first week of January, the 1,346 U.S. troops who had died since the start of the war left behind at least 962 children, according to a Scripps Howard News Service study.

Military experts have said that the number of American children left bereaved by the Iraq war is proportionally unprecedented. Unlike in previous wars, GI's today are more likely to be married and older than troops in the past.

Under the new legislation, which would be retroactive to October 2001:

■ The one-time, tax-free death gratuity of \$12,000



THE CHARLOTTE (N.C.) OBSERVER/SHS

**First Lt. Doyle Hufstetler died in Iraq in April, a month before his daughter, Grace (shown at 5 months with her mother, Leslie Hufstetler) was born.**

that goes to every spouse would rise to \$100,000. Children under 18 — who do not now get a death benefit — would each be given \$25,000 at age 21, to help pay for college.

■ Every child would be covered by military health insurance until age 21, or 23 if the child is a student. Now, children have the health coverage for just three years after the death of the parent. After that, they can continue coverage, but at the cost charged to military retirees.

■ Each child would receive a monthly \$750 check and the surviving parent would get \$993 monthly while children get \$247 a month. Spouses also get a separate payment of \$250 a month now if they have children.

## EUCOM children now diagnosed more often with mental problems

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A growing number of children in military families stationed in Europe are being diagnosed with mental health problems, but U.S. health care officials there don't yet know whether the war on terror is to blame.

Col. Gail Williamson, chief of health care operations at the Tricare Europe Office, said the number of military children under 18 diagnosed with mental problems — including stress and trauma disorders — rose from about 150 in 2002 to nearly 300 in 2003, and preliminary 2004 numbers show similar high levels.

"This is a real concern for us," she said. "We need to determine if we can relate it to something, and what we can do to help."

Williamson said that so far, researchers haven't been able to tell if children of deployed family members make up the largest segment of new patients, or if better screening and information about youth mental illness is the major factor in the increase.

But Col. Charles W. Hoge, who last year authored a study on troop mental health issues in Iraq and Afghanistan, said it "makes sense" that those children could suffer as a result of deployment, too.

"Families are stressed out, too," he said. "Our family research effort is not anywhere near what our efforts for soldiers are ... but what we've found [is] comparable prevalence rates in military health problems of the families."

Col. Elizabeth Ritchie, psychiatry consultant for the Office of the Surgeon General, said military officials are starting to look more closely at the war's effects on families, but that in many places — especially bases overseas — proper counseling and therapy is not available.

Williamson said often the European Tricare facilities do not treat those minors with mental health issues, but refer them to more specialized doctors outside of the military network or back in the States.

An additional survey on postcombat troop mental health is due out this spring.

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# Final draft of 1st ID relocation plan under way

Bell expected to sign off on recommendations at week's end for 2006 stateside move

BY JON R. ANDERSON  
Stars and Stripes

Army officials in Europe are nailing down the final draft of a plan that would begin to move elements of the 1st Infantry Division back to the United States in the summer of 2006.

At the same time, the plan calls for eventually merging and relocating the Army's top two headquarters in Europe, according to several senior military officials.

Officials have said the process could take as long as 10 years, and stress that the war in Iraq takes precedence in all Army planning.

Current plans call for U.S. Army Europe and V Corps to morph into a single deployable task force and consolidate from their current base in Heidelberg, Germany, to Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Germany, the current home of the 1st Armored Division.

"That's the plan as it stands now, but things could change," stressed one Army official, who — like the other officials — agreed to speak only on the condition of anonymity.

The shuffle is part of the Pentagon's global rebasing effort designed to shift as many as 70,000 U.S. troops based in Europe and Asia back to the United States while closing hundreds of overseas bases, from major bases to small communications sites.

Much of the drawdown of forces in Europe will center on the 1st Infantry Division and 1st Armored Division, both based in Germany. Both of the heavy tank and mechanized infantry divisions are slated to be replaced with smaller, lighter airborne units and one of the Army's new rapidly deployable Stryker brigades.

Although a time line for combining V Corps and USAREUR and moving it to Wiesbaden is not yet clear, it likely will come toward the end of the Army's drawdown in Europe, said a top defense official.

"It makes sense to put them there, though, because they'll have the airfield," said the official.



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Army officials in Europe are hammering out the details of relocating elements of the 1st Infantry Division to the United States. Current plans also call for U.S. Army Europe and V Corps to morph into a single deployable task force and consolidate from their current base in Heidelberg, Germany, to Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Germany, the current home of the 1st Armored Division, above.

Indeed, the Army's fleet of VIP jets and helicopters has already moved to Wiesbaden after Heidelberg's airfield was shut down last year.

## Spring announcement

President Bush announced the broad-brush strokes of the reorganization in August, but the finer points of the plan have yet to surface.

That's because many of those details are still being hammered out. Gen. B.B. Bell, commander of U.S. forces in Europe, however, is due to sign off on his final recommendations by the end of the week.

From there, say officials, the plan will be vetted by Marine Gen. James Jones' U.S. European Command and then by the Joint Staff and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

If approved, a formal announcement is expected this spring.

"Prudent planning is now under way," said Bell's spokesman, Col. Roger King, declining, however, to discuss details.

"Right now it's all still very much a soup sandwich," said the Army official of the ongoing planning efforts, "but we expect to trot the whole thing out in April."

## Planning around war

Much of the uncertainty in the relocation planning is being driven by uncertainty in Iraq and what forces will be needed there in the coming years.

The 1st ID is currently in Iraq and slated to return to Germany in March.

The V Corps staff, for example, expects to be tasked with replacing the Fort Bragg, N.C.-based XVIII Airborne Corps in Iraq in about a year, but no orders have been handed down yet.

Last week, officials announced that the bulk of 1st AD's war-fight-

ing units would deploy back to Iraq later this year, but without its division headquarters. Nearly all of the division's Germany-based units returned from Iraq in July after a grueling 15-month deployment.

Officials caution, however, that does not mean the thousands of troops assigned to the 1st AD headquarters and its nondeploying support units are being positioned to relocate back to the States sooner rather than later.

In fact, if V Corps deploys as expected, the 1st AD headquarters "will take over responsibility for the pieces of the corps that don't go," said another Army official close to the planning.

If the corps headquarters doesn't get the nod for the next Iraq rotation, he added, "well, frankly, we're all wondering what 1st AD [headquarters] will do."

## Summer moves

Officials stressed that unlike

South Korea-based units, which deployed to Iraq last year and in the coming months will relocate directly back to the United States, Europe-based units now on deck for deployment to the Middle East and Central Asia, or already there, will first return to Europe before getting reassignment orders to the United States.

"The [South] Korea units don't have families there, so they could do that, but in Europe we've got to take care of families," said the one of the Army officials.

Bell has promised as much. Every deployed unit "will redeploy and reintegrate at its European home base first," Bell told Stars and Stripes in August. "No family will be left to move themselves."

Likewise, Bell has promised all unit relocations back to the United States will largely occur over the summer months to ease transitions between schools for family members.

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# Many hurdles to clear before moving 1st ID to the States

BY CHARLIE COON  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — There are many hurdles to clear before the 1st Infantry Division, or any major unit, moves from Europe to the United States.

A stumble over any one of the hurdles could result in plans getting changed or delayed, according to Lt. Col. Rick Haupt, a spokesman for the U.S. European Command.

"There are many factors that go into the decision-making process to change overseas force structure," said Haupt, who added that he could comment on specific plans. "We make plans to best strategically position our forces, but there are diplomatic processes and political realities

that take time and very detailed coordination."

In the case of the Würzburg, Germany-based 1st ID, according to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction 2300.02B, the suggested — and maximum — time line to review and approve a move to the states would be:

- Army Gen. B.B. Bell, the U.S. Army Europe commander, would forward his plan to the EUCOM commander, Marine Gen. James L. Jones, at least six months before 1st ID could begin pulling up stakes.

- Jones would have three months to fine-tune the USAREUR plan before sending his own recommendation up to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

- The Joint Chiefs would have three weeks to go over Jones' recommendations

before giving its recommendation to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

■ Rumsfeld and his office would review the plan and coordinate necessary details at the congressional and Cabinet levels, including with the State Department, and set an announcement date, giving the host nation — in this case, Germany — at least 30 days' notice prior to a public announcement that 1st ID would be leaving Germany.

■ The Defense and State departments would then coordinate a public announcement with the host nation.

"Because plans can change and be redirected at any point in the process," Haupt said, "we simply can't be more specific about details or a time line right now."

If the plan to move 1st ID receives final

approval, a decision must still be made on where to move it. The Base Realignment and Closure Commission, or BRAC, a state-side body that would be determining which bases there will close, remain unchanged, or expand, is expected to begin its months-long process in May.

If the 1st ID is moved, the economic loss suffered by Würzburg and vicinity would be the economic gain of some lucky American community, and the BRAC process is expected to result in a tug of war between members of Congress trying to attract the relocating units to their home districts.

And Congress, ultimately, has to approve the Defense Department's annual budget and, therefore, has oversight influence on any of the department's major moves.

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# Most of Bush budget request slated for DOD

BY JON R. ANDERSON  
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Bush administration is asking Congress for an extra \$80 billion to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, while speeding up the Army's transition to new modular brigades and increasing funding for the training and equipping of local security forces inside the combat zones, according to a senior Pentagon official.

If approved, the Pentagon will get the lion's share with \$75 billion of the new funding, dubbed a "supplemental budget request."

The remaining \$5 billion has been earmarked for State Department projects including the construction of a new embassy in Baghdad and funds for the Palestinian peace process.

The extra infusion of cash to the Pentagon will be added to \$445 billion already approved for the Defense Department this year and comes as the administration prepares its fiscal 2006 request, expected next month.

"Most of these funds will support American troops on the ground by continuing to provide them with the equipment and other supplies they need," President Bush said in a statement Tuesday on the supplemental.

"The request also provides for the continued pursuit of al-Qaida and other terrorist elements in Afghanistan and elsewhere, while

supporting the great progress Afghanistan has made toward joining the community of free nations."

"More than two-thirds of our money will go directly toward funding the basic cost of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan," said the Pentagon official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

In real terms, he said, that means everything from resupplying bombs and bullets, buying fuel and food and fixing beat up tanks and trucks.

The remaining approximately \$25 billion will be split between building the Iraqi and Afghan militaries, while also funding Army transformation efforts.

"This will allow the Army to

fund the next three modularized brigades," said the Pentagon official.

## Units of action

The new formations are part of the Army's "units of action" concept designed to build standing, brigade-sized forces that have traditionally been split into different units.

According to Army spokesman Lt. Col. Chris Rodney, the three new Units of Action slated to stand up this year are:

■ 4th Brigade, 10th Mountain Division at Fort Polk, La.

■ 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas;

■ and 4th Brigade, 25th Infantry Division at Fort Richardson, Alaska.

Activation ceremonies for 10th Mountain Division's new brigade were held Jan. 19, said Rodney.

The other two are already in the process of standing up.

The three new brigades follow three UA brigades that began standing up last year. They include 10th Mountain Division's 3rd Brigade at the division's home base at Fort Drum, N.Y., another at Fort Campbell, Ky.'s 101st Airborne Division and the third in the Fort Stewart, Ga.-based 3rd Infantry Division.

By 2007, the Army hopes to have to have built 15 new brigades, increasing from 33 to 48.

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## CFC-Afghanistan change

The head of strategic planning and policy at the Hawaii-based U.S. Pacific Command has been tapped to pin on a third star in Afghanistan, according to a Pentagon announcement.

Pending Senate confirmation, Army Maj. Gen. Karl W. Eikenberry will take over Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan, relieving Lt. Gen. David Barno, who's been there for the past year.

CFC-Afghanistan is responsible for that country and parts of Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Eikenberry has seen several tours in China, working mostly in diplomatic posts there, according to his official biography.

Eikenberry also oversaw the Army's training of the Afghan army, among other responsibilities, as the chief of military cooperation at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul from Sept. 2002 to Sept. 2003.

It was unclear whether Barno would get the nod for another assignment or retire.

From staff reports

## Guard wants active-duty bonus hike

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Looking for new ways to bolster its thinning ranks, the Army National Guard is seeking legal authority to offer \$15,000 bonuses to active-duty soldiers willing to join the Guard — up from \$50 now.

Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, told reporters Tuesday that the Guard is 15,000 soldiers below its normal strength of 350,000, and he expects further short-term declines despite recent gains from tripling re-enlistment bonuses for Guardsmen deployed abroad.

If the Guard fails to return to its normal troop

level of 350,000 by the end of the budget year on Sept. 30, it will be the first time that has happened since 1989, the three-star general said.

Heavily stressed by longer-than-anticipated combat and support duties in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, the Guard recently increased first-time enlistment bonuses and added 1,400 recruits.

In explaining his interest in getting congressional approval for \$15,000 bonuses to entice active-duty military members to join the Guard, Blum said he believes he could get 8,000 new Guardsmen this way. He said the existing \$50 bonus carries little weight in today's economy.



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## IN THE WORLD

## Stampede protests

WAI, India — Sobbing relatives of Hindu pilgrims killed at a temple-carry bodies for cremation on Wednesday and poured out their anger at police for failing to protect worshippers trampled to death in a stampede during a massive religious procession. The death toll rose to 258.

Word of the accident trickled out to some of the hundreds of thousands of pilgrims climbing uphill to the temple on a narrow walkway lined with shops and tea stalls. Angered over the deaths, some set fire to shops along the path, triggering chaos and forcing fleeing in horror. At least 258 people died and 200 were injured in the melee, said Subbarao Patil, the area's top administrator.

## Suspected Mafia arrests

ROME — Police on Tuesday arrested 46 suspected members of the Sicilian Mafia, saying they had rolled up a network of couriers who carried written notes from reputed mob boss Bernardo Provenzano to his lieutenants. Anti-Mafia investigators in Palermo said that those arrested had helped Provenzano maintain a communication network with other mobsters, and that the arrest offered new details on how Provenzano has eluded authorities for four decades.

## Serbia extraditions

BELGRADE, Serbia, Montenegro — Serbia's deputy prime minister threatened Wednesday to pull his G17 Plus party out of Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica's Cabinet by the end of this month unless authorities extradite war crimes suspects sought by the U.N. tribunal.

"It wouldn't be good for Serbia if we did it," Miroslav Labus told the independent B-92 radio, referring to a scenario of a possible government collapse if his party leaves the minority Cabinet.

"But it would be even worse to miss this moment and not extradite suspects," he added.

## Milan terror case

ROME — Prosecutors plan to appeal a Milan court's decision to clear three alleged Islamic extremists of international terrorism charges, a prosecutor in the case told The Associated Press Wednesday.

The acquittal of the two Tunisians and a Moroccan accused of planning suicide attacks in Iraq, triggered strong criticism from Italy's center-right government because it appeared to play down guerrilla activities as non-terrorist acts.

The three were sentenced to up to three years in prison on lesser charges of assisting in illegal immigration and dealing in false documents.

Prosecutor Armando Spataro said the verdict, delivered on Wednesday, was due to a difference of opinion between prosecutors and the judge, and that he did not believe Italy's anti-terrorism law introduced shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks and on which the men were charged — needed changing.

From The Associated Press

## At least 8 dead in Thai boat accident

BY SUTIN WANNABOVORN

The Associated Press

BANGKOK, Thailand — Thai rescuers were scrambling Wednesday to find at least four tourists still missing after an overcrowded boat capsized and sank while carrying revelers back from a full-moon beach party. A Thai woman's body was found, raising the death toll to eight.

Police said 10 people remained missing in the general area of Pha-Ngan and Samui, but authorities have so far only been able to confirm that four of them were on the boat traveling between the

neighboring islands in southern Thailand.

Of the eight killed, three were Britons, one American and four Thais, said police Lt. Col. Veerayuth Hirani. Only one of the victims has been identified by relatives: Zachery Tschetter, 30, of California, Veerayuth said. Nine other tourists were injured in the accident.

In London, Britain's foreign office confirmed that three Britons — two men and a woman — had died and that one Briton remained missing. A fifth Briton could be among the missing, but it was uncertain whether he had

boarded the boat, a foreign office spokesman said.

Samran Rungruen, the skipper of the 30-foot boat surrendered Wednesday and blamed the accident on a mechanical problem, police said. He fled the scene Tuesday after the boat sank while carrying 40-50 people, far more than the 25-30 it was designed to carry, said Veerayuth.

Authorities continued to interview tourists at guest houses and resorts on Samui Island to account for the missing.

"The information about missing people is very sketchy because the people we have talked

to often don't know whether their friends or relatives were on that boat," said Lt. Korjuru Sangmanorn, the marine police chief.

The boat capsized at about 5:30 a.m. Tuesday as it was traveling from Pha-Ngan Island, which attracts thousands of young foreigners to monthly full-moon parties, to the larger resort of Samui.

Survivors who were rescued about 3 miles from Samui's pier said most of the boat's passengers were drunk.

Pha-Ngan and Samui were not affected by the Dec. 26 tsunami that killed more than 5,000 people in Thailand.



This photo shows ovens in the crematorium at Nazi Auschwitz concentration camp. On Jan. 27, 1945, Red Army soldiers liberated the concentration camp in Poland.

## Auschwitz survivors share lessons of past

BY DAVID MCHUGH

The Associated Press

OSWIECIM, Poland — A spate of vandalism on Jewish graves in western Europe. Far-right legislators walking out of an Auschwitz remembrance in Germany. Comments by France's main rightist leader downplaying the evils of the Nazi occupation.

Decades after World War II, many think the lessons of the Holocaust still need reinforcing in Europe. On Thursday — the 60th anniversary of Auschwitz's liberation — survivors and world leaders gather to remember the dead, and warn the living.

Thirty heads of state or government are to light candles and hear inter-faith prayers at the sprawling camp in southern Poland to mark the arrival of advancing Soviet troops on Jan. 27, 1945, as World War II neared its end. Some 1.5 million people, most of them Jews from across Europe, died in gas chambers or of disease, abuse and exhaustion at Auschwitz and neighboring Birkenau — the most notorious of the death camps set up by Adolf Hitler to carry out his "final solution," the murder of Europe's Jewish population. Six million Jews died in the Nazi camps, along with several million others, including Soviet prisoners of war,

Gypsies, homosexuals and political opponents of the Nazis.

On Wednesday, some of the survivors gathered for the remembrance talked about their experiences, saying that they undertook the difficult task in order to educate the younger generation about the Holocaust.

"It's very important, you are the last generation that can talk to the survivors, we are every day less," said Trudy Spira, who now lives in Venezuela. She was deported to Auschwitz with her family as an 11-year-old from Slovakia in 1944.

"We can give living testimony... to let the world know, to try to get them to learn even though they don't, so that it doesn't happen again," said Spira, 72.

Romanian-born Auschwitz survivor Olly Ritterband from Copenhagen, whose book "The Will To Survive" is read in Danish schools, made the painful offer for her father, who died at the Dachau concentration camp in Germany.

"For more than 30 years, I couldn't speak about the Holocaust," said Ritterband, who is 80 and lost 70 family members and relatives in the Holocaust. "This is the Kiddish for my father," she said, referring to the Jewish prayer for the departed. "I don't want to write. I was crying the whole time but I did it."

## Gas company blames aging pipes for latest leak in Mexico

The Associated Press

VERACRUZ, Mexico — An unknown amount of liquid gas leaked from a pipeline operated by Mexico's state oil company and spread to at least two rivers in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz, prompting the evacuation of 2,000 people, officials said Tuesday.

The leak marks the fourth accident to occur in just over a month in equipment operated by Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex. It happened about 10 p.m. Monday after a 12-inch pipeline ruptured, Ranulfo Marquez, deputy director of civil protection for Veracruz state, told The Associated Press.

Marquez said officials had determined that the 20-year-old pipeline cracked because of a lack of maintenance, which also was blamed for some of the other recent Pemex accidents. Pemex officials recognize that many of the company's pipelines and other installations are in need of improvement, but the company hasn't budgeted enough funds for the repairs.

The pipeline involved in Monday's leak was carrying naphtha, a liquid derived from crude oil that is used as a raw material in the petrochemical industry, and also for making some fuels.

## Israel, Palestinians resume meetings

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel and the Palestinian Authority resumed diplomatic contacts Wednesday, after a two-week freeze, and Israel agreed to suspend targeted killings of Palestinian militants — two more steps toward a cease-fire and a resumption of peace talks.

The relative calm of the past week was marred by a brief burst of violence in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, including Palestinian rocket fire and the killing of a Palestinian preschooler, apparently by Israeli army fire.

Also, in the West Bank Israeli troops shot and killed a Palestinian militant and seriously wounded two others in an arrest raid on the town of Qalqilya, the army said.

Israeli and Palestinian officials held a flurry of meetings Wednesday, both to prepare for a summit between the Israeli and Palestinian leaders and to finalize a plan for Palestinian police deployment in the Gaza Strip on Thursday.

# 'Italian Unabomber' may be behind blast in candy container

BY MARTA FALCONI  
The Associated Press

ROME — A candy container exploded Wednesday in northeastern Italy as a group of middle school students walked by, raising fears that the "Italian Unabomber" had struck again, police said. No one was injured.

The explosive device was packed into the container of one of Italy's most popular treats, a chocolate egg whose hollowed-in center contains a surprise trinket for children, according to police in Treviso, where the incident occurred.

A child picked the container, and it exploded and everybody scattered," a police official said, referring to the group of schoolchildren walking nearby, apparently on their way to a local theater.

No injuries were reported, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The blast occurred near the city's courthouse, raising speculation the attacker meant to taunt investigators, especially a special team trying to catch the "Italian Unabomber."

"You can read this in terms of a growing challenge," Treviso Prosecutor Antonio Fojadelli said. "We're here to take up" that challenge.

Investigators said the explosive would be analyzed to see if it is similar to that used by the "Italian Unabomber."

In 2003, an explosion in a marketing pen severely injured a child's hand and eye during a family picnic in the Treviso area and was considered to be the latest in a string of bombings by the so-called "Italian Unabomber."

After a 5-year-old boy was injured in 2002 by an exploding soap bubble jar, investigators hypothesized that the bomber was now targeting children.

Whoever is behind the dozen similar explosions in northeastern Italy since at least 1994 has been likened in the Italian media to the American recluse "Unabomber" who sent dozens of bombs through the U.S. mail for nearly 20 years.

Ted Kaczynski, identified as the U.S. bomber, was sentenced to prison for life in 1998, convicted of three mail-bomb murders and 23 nonfatal mail bombings.

# Ceremonies, frustrations mark month since tsunami disaster

Kids in Aceh province return to classrooms

BY YEOH EN-LAI  
The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — One month after an epic tsunami ravaged South Asia, children and teachers in Indonesia's worst-hit Aceh province on Wednesday marked an emotional return to school, where thousands of desks of classmates and colleagues sat empty.

Alqausar, a 6-year-old boy with neatly parted hair, returned to school with his mother and wondered where his best friend Andi was.

But reality soon dawned on him.

"I don't think he's coming," whispered the boy, one of six in his class of 43 who showed up at a primary school. Of the school's enrollment of 600, only 260 came Wednesday. The others are presumed dead.

Mourners along a road on Sri Lanka's shattered coastline lit candles and set colored flags in silent memory of at least 30,957 people who died there Dec. 26.

"In memory of that day, for the missing and dead in all the countries, we are praying that a tsunami will never return," said L. Chandarane, head monk at the Ariyakara Viharaya temple near the southern Sri Lankan city of Galle.

Up to 147,000 people are still missing across South Asia, and differing government tallies put the overall death toll between 144,000 and 178,000. But workers trying to find bodies under mud-caked rubble, and the toll was expected to rise.

In Thailand, where at least 5,384 people were killed and more than 3,100 are missing, two residents of the island of Koh Lanta were to mark the anniversary by launching new boats built for them with relief agency donations.

Before heading out to sea at high tide, the front of each boat was to be wrapped in a seven-colored cloth and flowers, in keeping with local tradition.

In Sri Lanka, a judge will begin hearing evidence next week from nine women who claim that an infant dubbed "Baby 81" is her lost child.

The baby boy was found half buried in mud hours after last month's tsunami struck and is being cared for at a hospital in eastern Sri Lanka, where he had the 81st admission on the day of the disaster.

"I will go through all the evidence and if I am not satisfied, I will order a DNA test," said Judge M.P. Mohaideen.

Behind Wednesday's commemorations and public grieving was



A U.S. Navy FA-18 Super Hornet fighter takes off Wednesday from aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln off the Indonesian coast. The U.S. military began wrapping up its tsunami relief effort in Indonesia, a month after airlifting food and medicines from warships.

# U.S. military scaling down relief operations in Aceh

ABOARD THE USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN — The U.S. military is beginning to scale back its tsunami relief efforts in Indonesia as other nations take over the operations, officials said Wednesday.

The aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, which was diverted to Sumatra within four days of the Dec. 26 disaster with 17 SH-60 Seahawk helicopters aboard, is preparing to sail home to Everett, Wash., the military officials said.

The United Nations, Australia

and other countries already have begun flying their own helicopters with supplies from Banda Aceh, the provincial capital, to devastated and isolated villages along Sumatra's western coast.

"Our role was important at first. Now that the other forces are coming in, the need for the helicopters is less important, and we will probably start to make our exit from this operation," said Rear Adm. William Crowder, who commands the Lincoln's battle group.

— The Associated Press

# Bosnians honor Sontag

The Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Sarajevo authorities organized a tribute to Susan Sontag, "a true friend" who helped Sarajevans during the 1992-95 Bosnian war.

"Don't cry for me, Sarajevo," read a banner on the stage of the Bosnian National Theater where Sarajevans on Tuesday evening honored Sontag, 71, a prominent author and activist, who died in New York last month from complications of leukemia.

During the 1992-95 Bosnian war Sontag on numerous occasions visited Sarajevo and lobbied

for the end of the siege of the Bosnian capital. In 1993, Sontag with a group of Sarajevo actors and directors staged a production of "Waiting for Godot," at Sarajevo's Youth Theater.

In 1993, Sarajevo city authorities made Sontag an honorary Sarajevan for "her unselfish involvement and for spreading the truth on the sufferings of Sarajevo," city mayor Muhidin Hamzadzic reminded the packed theater on Tuesday.

"Susan was a true friend of Sarajevo. We thank her for everything that she has done for us," Nada Djurevska, Bosnian actress told the ceremony.

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# Parody song offends

NEW YORK — WOHT-FM continued to be criticized Wednesday for a song a morning display played last week that made fun of victims of the South Asian tsunami.

"The Tsunami Song," a parody of "We are the World" that was aired by Hot 97 morning host Miss Jones, takes jabs at the tragedy and uses ethnic slurs. Local leaders have called on the Federal Communications Commission to take action against the hip-hop station.

The station did post an apology a few hours after the broadcast and also said the station's morning team would donate a week's salary to tsunami relief efforts. The station has received thousands of e-mails calling for Miss Jones to be fired.

From The Associated Press

a deepening sense of frustration among some survivors over the slowness of recovery efforts.

"We have not received any assistance yet," read a banner strung between plastic tents housing survivors in Sri Lanka's Galle.

The government has promised to rebuild homes destroyed in the tsunami but has banned houses from being built along the beach front. Fishermen have grumbled that they need to live near the

water for their livelihood.

"We have enough food and water but we need boats and nets. We don't want to be beggars," said fisherman Priyantha Senaviratna, 27, who lost his 4-year-old daughter to the waves.

The international Red Cross said Wednesday it was winding down fund-raising efforts because it had raised enough money — \$1.17 billion — to sustain long-term aid.

# Priests urge end to celibacy ban

SYDNEY, Australia — Roman Catholic priests in Australia have urged the Vatican to overturn a centuries-old ban on married clergy to help recruit new priests, a report said Wednesday.

Australia's National Council of Priests wrote to the Vatican's Synod of Bishops last month arguing

that marriage should not be a barrier to ordination and asking the church to consider readmitting priests who had left the clergy to marry, the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper said Wednesday.

Father Eric Hodges, a Melbourne-based priest and statistician, predicted that in 20 years Australia will have fewer than one-sixth of the priests needed.

From The Associated Press

## IN THE STATES



Condoleezza Rice

Senate  
PKs Rice  
for job  
at StateBY BARRY SCHWEID  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Condoleezza Rice won easy confirmation Wednesday to be President Bush's new secretary of state, despite strong dissent from a small group of Democrats who said she shares blame for mistakes and war deaths in Iraq.

The Senate voted 85 to 13 to confirm Rice, who succeeds Colin Powell as America's top diplomat and becomes the first black woman to hold the job.

Plans were made for her to be sworn in at the White House on Wednesday night, take her place in the State Department on Thursday morning and have a more elaborate swearing-in by Bush at the agency on Friday.

The Senate vote showed some of the partisanship that delayed Rice's confirmation vote by several days. Twelve Democrats and independent James Jeffords of Vermont voted against Rice. Thirty Democrats voted for her.

Democratic foes of her appointment focused mostly on the way Bush and Rice took the United States to war in Iraq and how they have handled the war with insurgents since deposing Saddam Hussein.

They said mistakes had led to mounting American casualties. As the debate drew to a close, word came from Iraq of the crash of a U.S. military transport helicopter in bad weather, killing at least 30 people in the worst U.S. loss since the war.

Rice, 50, is Bush's trusted national security aide and a main architect of his policies on Iraq and the war on terror.

Also Wednesday, a Senate Judiciary Committee divided along partisan lines advanced Alberto Gonzales' nomination as attorney general to the full Senate Wednesday despite Democratic complaints that he is too close to President Bush to be effective as the nation's top law enforcement official.

## 10 dead in Calif. train derailment

Police blame accident on 'suicidal' man who left SUV on tracks

BY DAISY NGUYEN  
Associated Press

GLENDALE, Calif. — A commuter train smashed into an SUV left on a crossing by a suicidal man early Wednesday, derailed and crashed into another train, authorities said. Ten people were killed and injuring about 200.

The SUV driver changed his mind about suicide and left the vehicle before it was hit, Police Chief Randy Adams said. The man will be charged with homicide, he said.

Cars from both Metrolink trains derailed and some landed on their sides, sending passengers tumbling down the aisles, authorities said.

"This whole incident was started by a deranged individual that was suicidal," Adams told a news conference at the scene of mangled railcars in the suburb north of downtown Los Angeles.

"I think his intent at that time was to take his own life," he changed his mind prior to the train actually striking this vehicle," the chief said. The man, identified as Juan Manuel Alvarez, 26, of Compton, was the driver of the bound Metrolink train struck his



Firefighters examine the wreckage from Wednesday's train derailment in Glendale, Calif. Two Metrolink commuter trains derailed, killing 10 people and injuring hundreds of morning commuters, authorities said.

vehicle, derailed and hit the north-bound train, Adams said.

Alvarez had also tried to slash his wrists, authorities said.

In was the worst rail accident in the United States since March 15, 1999, when an Amtrak train hit a truck and derailed near Bourbonnais, Ill., killing 11 people

and injuring more than 100.

Firefighters picked up through twisted wreckage and carried injured passengers from the trains to a triage center set up in a nearby parking lot.

One commuter train was headed from Los Angeles' Union Station to downtown Burbank, and

the other was bound to Union Station from Moorpark, Metrolink officials said. The accident happened a little after 6 a.m.

"I heard a noise. It got louder and louder," said passenger Diane Brady, 56, of Simi Valley. "And next thing I knew the train derailed, and everyone was screaming and I held onto a pole for dear life. I held on for what seemed like a week and a half, it seemed. It was a complete nightmare."

In a light rain, firefighters climbed ladders into windows of a battered train tipped onto its side.

Nearly 300 firefighters were at the scene and 35 ambulances were taking injured passengers to hospitals, officials said.

Dazed passengers, some limping, gathered at tables in a nearby store, while the injured sprawled on color-coded mats in the parking lot: red for those with severe injuries, green for those less seriously harmed.

The cars tumbled off the tracks, one of the Metrolink trains struck a parked Union Pacific car, tipping it onto its side, said Kathryn Blackwell, a railroad spokeswoman in Omaha, Neb.

## Wars expected to drive federal deficit to record \$427 billion

BY ALAN FRAM  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House says its drive to halve federal deficits by 2009 remains on track, though it projects that the cost of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will help drive this year's shortfall to a record \$427 billion.

The figure, provided by a senior Bush administration official who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity, was among a flood of numbers released Tuesday that underscored a gloomy budget picture. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said projected deficits for the decade ending in 2014 had grown \$503 billion worse than it calculated in September, excluding war costs. The deterioration was chiefly due to tax cuts and hurricane aid enacted since then.

The congressional analysts projected that this year's deficit would hit \$368 billion, excluding war expenses, and about \$400 billion with them.

The highest deficit ever was last year's \$412 billion. The administration official said the White House's 2005 projection of \$427 billion showed progress because it was less than last year's gap when compared with the size of the growing U.S. economy — a key measure of the deficit's potency.

"By working with Congress to exercise responsible spending restraint" and cutting taxes to spark economic growth, "we've got a plan to cut the deficit in half over the next five years," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said.

Not included were war spending, the costs of reneuing President Bush's expiring tax cuts and keeping the alternative minimum tax from affecting more middle-income Americans.

## School bus accidents

BROOKSVILLE, Fla. — Eight children and the driver were injured when a school bus overturned in Hernando County on Wednesday morning, the Florida Highway Patrol said.

The bus with 24 students was bound for Moton Elementary School when it left the road and overturned at about 8:20 a.m., Coggins said. It was unclear why the bus left the road, Coggins said. The investigation was continuing.

In Logan, W.Va., at the exact same time, a school bus hit a patch of black ice near a railroad crossing and overturned, causing minor injuries to the bus driver and five children.

## McDonald's suit holds

NEW YORK — An appeals court revived part of a class-action lawsuit blaming McDonald's for making people fat, reinstating claims pertaining to deceptive advertising.

In a statement, Oak Brook, Ill.-based McDonald's Corp. said "common sense tells you this particular case makes no sense," adding the ruling "simply reinforces the inevitable conclusion that this case is without merit."

## Bush pushes reform

WASHINGTON — President Bush publicly prodded Republicans on Wednesday to follow his lead and approve personal accounts under Social Security, conceding some lawmakers are concerned whether it will be worth the political price. "I think it is," he said.

From wire reports

## Report: Missile defense for planes too costly

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Technology to guard airplanes against terrorist missiles is too expensive for commercial airlines and developers should work to come up with something more suitable "as rapidly as possible," a new report says.

Fitting the nation's 6,800 commercial jets with countermeasures against shoulder-fired missiles would cost an estimated \$11 billion, with operating costs going up to \$2.1 billion annually, said the RAND Corp. report.

The report noted that the federal government now spends about \$4.4 billion annually on all transportation security.

Analysts who did the report questioned whether it was even possible to defend against such weapons, and whether in any case terrorists would simply find other ways and other weapons to attack jets.

"Given the significant costs involved with operating countermeasures based on current technology, we believe a decision to install such systems aboard commercial airlines should be postponed until the technologies can be developed and shown to be more compatible in a commercial environment," the report said.

"This development effort should proceed as rapidly as possible."

Meanwhile, other approaches should be used to guard against missile attacks, such as a broader program to capture terrorists abroad, foil their attempts at buying missiles and prevent them and their weapons from entering the United States, RAND said.

Government experts have worried for decades about the possibility terrorists would try to down an aircraft with a missile.





**B-to-the-E, Anheuser-Busch's new 'brew,' is beer infused with caffeine, ginseng, herbal guarana and fruit flavoring.**

## Beermaker launches new 'brew'

BY JIM SUHR  
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Going against the grain in courting the young cocktail crowd, beermaker Anheuser-Busch Cos. is launching a new "brew" to go head-to-head with classic mixed drinks — traditional suds spiked with caffeine, fruit flavoring, herbal guarana and ginseng.

The world's largest brewer's nationwide rollout this week of B-to-the-E — the "B" standing for beer, the "E" for something "extra" and shown as an exponent of B — came as beermakers look to piggyback strides liquor companies have been in luring young consumers to flavored and mixed drinks.

Anheuser-Busch test marketed B-to-the-E from in the fall, eventually assessing in 55 U.S. cities whether the new "beer" appealed to 20-something consumers craving something zippy in their highly social, fast-paced lifestyles.

"It's producing a lot of excitement for this beer category in that consumers and bartenders are not looking at this as a typical beer," in many cases with B-to-the-E served over ice, said Dawn Ropke, the St. Louis-based brewer's brand manager of new-product development. "It's going right up against mixed drinks."

She declined to reveal sales data.

Slightly sweet but tart and coming in the aromas of blackberry, raspberry and cherry, B-to-the-E is to be marketed toward "active 21- to 27-year-old experimenters looking for new tastes and options."

Anheuser-Busch trumpets itself as the first major brewer to infuse beer with caffeine, ginseng and guarana, the latter a caffeine-bearing herb used in a popular Brazilian soft drink.

# Education official pans PBS cartoon with gay characters

BY BEN FELLER  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The nation's new education secretary denounced the Public Broadcasting Service for spending public money on a cartoon with lesbian characters, saying many parents would not want children exposed to such lifestyles.

The not-yet-aired episode of "Postcards From Buster" shows the title character, an animated bunny named Buster, on a trip to Vermont — a state known for recognizing same-sex civil unions. The episode features two lesbian couples, although the focus is on farm life and maple sugaring.

A PBS spokesman said late Tuesday that the non-profit network has decided not to distribute the episode, called "Sugartime!," to its 349 stations. She said the Education Department's objections were not a factor in that decision.

"Ultimately, our decision was based on the fact that we recognize this is a sensitive issue, and we wanted to make sure that parents had an opportunity to introduce this subject to their children in their own time," said Lea Sloan, vice president of media relations at PBS.

However, the Boston public television station that produces the show, WGBH, does plan to make the "Sugartime!" episode available to other stations. WGBH also plans to air the episode on March 23, Sloan said.

PBS gets money for the "Postcards from Buster" series through the federal Ready-To-Learn program, one aimed at helping young children learn through television.

Education Secretary Margaret Spellings said the "Sugartime!" episode does not fulfill the intent of Congress had in mind for programming. By law, she said, any funded shows must give top attention to "research-based educational objectives, content and materials."

"Many parents would not want their young children exposed to the lifestyles portrayed in the episode," Spellings wrote in a letter sent Tuesday to Pat Mitchell, president and chief executive officer of PBS.

"Congress and the Department's purpose in funding this programming certainly was not to introduce this kind of subject matter to children, particularly through the powerful and intimate medium of television."

She asked PBS to consider refunding the money it spent on the episode.

With her letter, Spellings has made criticism of the publicly funded program's depiction of the gay lifestyle one of her first acts as secretary. She began on Monday, replacing Rod Paige as President Bush's education chief.

Spellings issued three requests to PBS.



**Gloria and Bobby Doster stand in their Shoats Grocery & Package country store in Hutchins, Ga. The Dosters said they exchanged gunfire with two men who tried to rob their store. Both men were killed.**

## Ga. grocery owners kill armed men in holdup

BY ELLIOTT C. McLAUGHLIN  
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — When two men walked into a popular country store outside Atlanta, announced a holdup and fired a shot, owners Bobby and Gloria Doster never hesitated. The pair pulled out their own pistols and opened fire.

The armed suspect and his partner were killed. The Dosters won't be charged, according to local officials, because they were acting in self-defense.

"I just started shooting," said Gloria Doster, 56. "I was trying to blow his brains out is what I was trying to do."

Shoats Grocery & Package near Crawford, 70 miles east of Atlanta, is a well-known spot where locals stop for breakfast biscuits or lunch. Gloria Doster said the two men who came there Monday had something else in mind.

She was rearranging boxes of soda by the store's front door when a man wearing a wig walked inside, the fake hair draped in front of his face.

"I asked him, 'Can you see to walk?'" Doster said. Then she noticed a second man behind him wearing a mask. He announced a holdup.

One man grabbed Gloria Doster and pushed her toward the register. She said the other kept his gun on her 62-year-old husband, who also goes by the name Shoats.

She tried to open the register, but one of the men told her she wasn't moving fast enough and tried to shoot her husband. He missed — and his gun jammed.

At that point, Bobby Doster pulled out a .380-caliber handgun and shot one of the suspects. Gloria Doster then went for a 9 mm pistol she keeps near the register.

"All hell broke loose," she said. "I was trying to shoot and dial 911 at the same time."

Both suspects took cover behind the store's meat counter as the Dosters opened fire. Gloria Doster said she doesn't know how many bullets were fired, or how many times the suspects were hit.

Police arrived about five minutes after receiving Gloria Doster's call; the suspects died a short time later at a hospital.

The bloodshed, nevertheless, startled Gloria Doster, who has been around guns all her life, and has used them for target shooting. "But I never figured I'd have to use them on anybody," she said.

She said the worst thing that's happened in the seven years the couple has owned the store was an after-hours break-in by teenagers three years ago. The burglars were promptly arrested.

## City weighs bag tax

SAN FRANCISCO — City officials are considering a proposal to slap a 17-cent surcharge on paper or plastic shopping bags.

While no other U.S. city imposes a shopping bag tax, such a strategy has been successfully employed in Ireland, South Africa, Bangladesh, Australia, Shanghai and Taiwan.

Environmentalists say plastic bags jam machinery, pollute waterways, clog waterways, and often end up as eyesores in trees or bushes. San Francisco shoppers bring home about 50 million bags each year, according to an environmental study.

Grocery bag manufacturers and trade groups say many people already reuse their plastic bags. Other opponents call the plan an unfair and regressive tax on shoppers.

## Generic AIDS drug OK'd

NEW YORK — The Food and Drug Administration's approval of a generic and less costly version of a widely used AIDS drug combination is expected to expand AIDS treatment in the developing world.

The FDA backing means relief organizations funded by President Bush's \$1.5 billion AIDS relief plan can buy the product made by Aspen Pharmacare, South Africa's largest drug maker.

Tuesday's announcement marks the first time the FDA has approved a generic AIDS product made by a foreign drug company.

The FDA approved a generic drug made by Barr Laboratories in December, but Tuesday's announcement is considered a major advancement because the Aspen drug combination is so widely used as a first-line therapy.

## Grants for homeless

LOS ANGELES — Thousands of local homeless programs throughout the nation will receive a record \$1.4 billion in Housing and Urban Development grants.

It's the fourth year HUD has provided record funding for homeless assistance. The Bush administration has a stated goal of eradicating chronic homelessness, defined as an individual who has been homeless for more than a year, by 2010.

## Ruling draws protests

DOVER, Del. — A ruling by the Delaware Supreme Court could free nearly 200 inmates serving life terms for murder, rape and kidnapping — a decision that has drawn impassioned protests from victims' families and lawmakers.

The court's decision that some life sentences should be considered 45-year terms applies only to life-with-parole sentences handed down for crimes committed before Delaware clarified its sentencing laws in mid-1990.

On Tuesday, the court unanimously passed a bill declaring the ruling "null and void," although lawmakers acknowledged the measure may violate the separation of powers.

The vote came after lawmakers heard pleas from victims' families.

From The Associated Press



## OPINION

# Democracy tunnel vision can limit progress

BY RICHARD N. HAASS

The idea, stated forcefully by President Bush in his second inaugural, that the United States would henceforth support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture — with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world — is by any yardstick an important declaration. A foreign policy doctrine, however, it is not.

This is not to suggest that democracy doesn't matter. There is, for example, considerable evidence suggesting that mature democracies tend not to make war on one another. Today's Europe best illustrates this phenomenon.

Promoting democracy can also be useful as one component of the campaign against terrorism. Young men and women who are more involved in their societies and less alienated from their governments might see more reason to live for their causes than to kill and die for them.

With luck, they might choose to become teachers rather than terrorists.

But there are more reasons to conclude that it is neither desirable nor practical to make democracy promotion the dominant feature of American foreign policy. The bottom line is that while the nature of other societies should always be a foreign policy consideration, it cannot and should not always be the foreign policy priority.

To begin with, democracies are not always peaceful. Immature democracies — those that hold elections but lack many of the checks and balances characteristic of a true democracy — are particularly vulnerable to being hijacked by popular passions.

Post-communist Serbia is but one illustration.

It is also difficult to spread democracy. It is one thing to start a regime, quite another to put something better in its place. Prolonged occupation of the sort the United States carried out in Japan and West Germany after World War II is the only sure-fire way to build democratic institutions and instill democratic culture. But as Iraq demonstrates, the rise of modern nationalism and modern methods of resistance means that such opportunities will be rare, costly and uncertain to succeed, despite an investment of billions of dollars and thousands of lives.

Prospects for the democratic improvement of a society can prove even worse absent occupation. Those who rejoiced 25 years ago in the overthrow of the shah of Iran should reflect on the fact that unattractive regimes can be replaced by something far worse. We thus need to be measured in what pressures we place on such countries as Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Here as elsewhere it is important to observe the Hippocratic oath and first do no harm. Time is a factor in another sense. There is no realistic way that democracy will arrive in either North Korea or Iran before nuclear weapons do. And even if "freedom" were somehow to come to Tehran, it is almost certain that free Iranians would be as enthusiastic as the mullahs are about possessing nuclear weapons.

Trade-offs for the United States are unavoidable. President Bush's statement [last] Thursday that "America's vital interests and our deepest beliefs are now one" doesn't hold up to careful scrutiny. The United States has a vital interest in China

THOMAS FRANKLIN



helping to eliminate the North Korean nuclear program, in Russia helping to eliminate the Iranian one, in Pakistan going after al-Qaida, in Israel and Palestinians making peace. We may prefer that China, Russia, Pakistan and Palestine also be democratic, but a preference is something markedly less than a vital interest. The United States simply cannot afford to allow promoting democracy to trump cooperation on what is truly essential.

Again, none of this is meant to suggest that the United States should conduct an

amoral foreign policy that ignores what governments are doing to their citizens. We should encourage the rule of law, human rights, and meaningful economic and political participation. But as President Bush acknowledged, "The great objective of ending tyranny is the concentration of work of generations." In the interim, the United States needs a foreign policy that deals with the world as it is.

Richard N. Haass is president of the Council on Foreign Relations. He was director of policy planning for the State Department from 2001 to June 2003. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

## 'Exclusive' on special ops in Iran is a red herring

Muckracking journalist Seymour Hersh has finally, if inadvertently, done his country a service, thinks my friend Jack Wheeler.

Hersh came to fame through exposing the My Lai massacre in the Vietnam War, and has since specialized in poorly sourced stories that cast the U.S. military in a bad light. In a Jan. 17 New Yorker piece titled "The Coming Wars," Hersh asserted that U.S. Special Forces already are in Iran, preparing for full-scale war.

"Mr. Hersh's article is so riddled with errors of fundamental fact that the credibility of his entire piece is destroyed," said a Pentagon spokesman Lawrence Di Rita.

A post-election meeting between Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and the Joint Chiefs of Staff that Hersh describes never took place, Di Rita said.

A supposed new chain of command for command operations headed by Rumsfeld is also a product of Hersh's overheated imagination, he said.

Liberals outraged by the inadvertent outing of CIA officer Valerie Plame in the Niger uranium kerfuffle have uttered not a word of complaint about Hersh's purported exposure of ongoing intelligence operations, though Plame has been safe, while Hersh's disclosures, if true, could put lives at risk.

Washington Times editorial page editor Tony Blankley suggested that Hersh could — and probably should — be prosecuted under the section of the U.S. Code that makes it a crime to, in time of war, communi-

cate to the enemy "any information with respect to the movement, numbers or disposition of any of the armed forces."

Blankley should chill, said Wheeler, a real-life Indiana Jones who spent much of the 1980s with anti-communist resistance movements in Afghanistan, Nicaragua and Angola.

"Eastern Iran is a desert," he said. "Iran's nuclear facilities ... are in central Iran south of Tehran. Special ops teams would be sent in via Iraq, not Afghanistan. The story was planted by [CIA Director] Porter [Goss] with Hersh, a left-wing sleaze whose claims could be easily denied — in order to rattle Iran's cage."

"Did it ever. Iranian government newspapers were stupid enough to explode in denunciations of Hersh's article, and the speech Iranian leader [Ayatollah Mohammad Khatami] gave in response to it was

nothing short of off-the-wall hysterical. Except what Porter and G.W. [Bush] wanted. And yes, a boatload of covert ops are being launched in Iran, but not like Hersh describes," Wheeler said in his newsletter, "To the Point."

Vice President Dick Cheney ramped up the psyops in an interview on the Don Imus radio show. If Iranian nuclear development continues, the Israelis might take out the plants, Cheney said.

But the biggest psyop was the president's inaugural address itself. Liberals profess to have difficulty understanding what Bush meant by his paeon to freedom, but his target audience did not.

New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman observed: "The one country on this side of the ocean that would have elected Mr. Bush is ... Iran, where many young people apparently hunger for Mr. Bush to remove

their despotic leaders, the way he did in Iraq ...

"Reports from across Iran are stating about the massive welcoming of President George W. Bush's inaugural speech and his promise of helping to bring down the last outposts of tyranny," said the Student Movement Coordinating Committee for Democracy in Iran (SMCCDI) ...

"Many Iranians, who were looking for the World's super power firm moral support and financial aid to credible secularist opposition groups are now becoming sure that Mr. Bush's agenda is indeed to help them gain Freedom, Secularity and Democracy," SMCCDI said.

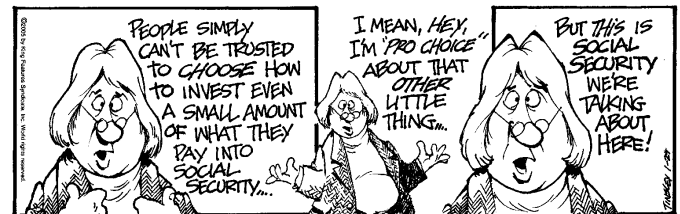
Jack Kelly is the national affairs writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Toledo (Ohio) Blade. A former Marine and Green Beret, he was a deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force in the Reagan administration. His column appears weekly in Stars and Stripes.

Jack Kelly



## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



## Stabilizing the school

**PA** HERSHEY — The Milton Hershey School Trust board has restructured itself in what its chairman said was an effort to stabilize school operations and help the school expand.

Among other changes, the board chairman serves three years now, instead of two, and there is a succession plan for board leadership. Chairman Anthony J. Colistra said shorter terms and frequent turnovers in administration leads to instability.

But Ric Fouad, a former alumni association board member and now a lawyer for the association, sees other motives behind the moves.

"All they have done is entrench themselves and extend their own terms beyond what their bylaws permit while labeling it a reorganization," Fouad said.

## Horse on the highway

**TX** HOUSTON — A police officer who struck a runaway horse on a freeway was critically injured, authorities say.

Several other motorists struck the horse's carcass on Interstate 45 before police could shut down the freeway's northbound lanes.

The injured officer, who was off-duty and driving a personal vehicle, managed to turn onto the side of the freeway after the collision, but the top of his car was sheared off by the impact, said David Gutierrez, a Houston Police Department accident investigator.

He said the horse was running southbound in the northbound lanes off I-45, just north of the Interstate-610 loop, when the first collision occurred.

## Mayor under fire

**MI** DETROIT — With his city teetering above a financial abyss, Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick went before television viewers this month and delivered some grave news: He had no choice but to lay off nearly 700 city workers and cut services. This was no time for wanton spending, he said.

Days later, Kilpatrick found his own spending under attack when a local television station reported that the city just signed a \$25,000 lease for a Lincoln Navigator for Kilpatrick's wife — a fact the mayor at first denied but eventually confirmed.

The Navigator story snowballed after Kilpatrick's bodyguard showed a TV reporter against a wall. It was just the latest in a series of allegations that the 34-year-old former college football player has used city resources to enhance his personal life.

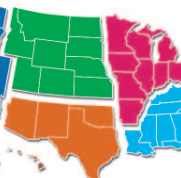
Kilpatrick, a first-term mayor facing an election this year, has won praise for his willingness to confront the city's \$230 million shortfall in next year's budget.

## Earth-friendly dams

**NH** MANCHESTER — The Public Service Company of New Hampshire is hoping to renew its license to operate power-generating dams on the Merrimack River.

That may mean making the dams more environmentally friendly. The company's 25-year license to operate dams in Manchester, Bow and Hooksett expires at the end of this year.

As part of its application, the



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

company is proposing to allow the river to run more freely at the Amoskeag dam. Right now, water is held behind the dam then fed through to generate electricity during the day.

## Suspect walks out

**FL** ORLANDO — A murder suspect who was inadvertently allowed to leave police headquarters more than a week ago, turned himself in, authorities said. Taveress Webster, 18, was arrested Jan. 13 in a fatal shooting during a home invasion last July, then interviewed by homicide investigators. But a "breakdown in communication" allowed Webster to leave the building after the interview.

"We do a good, very good job on our investigations. We are diligent with them. This was a mistake that slipped through the cracks," Orlando police spokesman Brian Gilliam said.

## Recognizing natives

**HI** HONOLULU — Sen. Daniel Akaka plans to reintroduce the so-called Akaka bill, which would allow Native Hawaiians to seek federal recognition. Akaka, D-Hawaii, said he wanted to introduce the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, while Rep. Neil Abernethy, D-Hawaii, would introduce the

measure in the House.

The bill would establish an office in the Department of the Interior to address Native Hawaiian issues and to create an interagency group composed of representatives of federal agencies that currently administer programs and policies affecting Hawaiians.

In effect, the federal government would recognize Hawaiians as a native population, as it already does American Indians and Native Alaskans.

## Guard charged with rape

**NY** SLATE HILL — A 33-year-old school security guard faces charges for a sexual relationship state police say he had with a female student starting when she was 14.

Bruce Etheridge of Warwick was charged with third-degree rape, third-degree sodomy, third-degree sexual abuse, endangering the welfare of a child and forcible touching.

The Miniskin Valley Central School District fired Etheridge, Superintendent Martha Murray said. He was employed for nine years at the school in Slate Hill, 57 miles north of New York City.

## Smoking out tobacco

**WY** CHEYENNE — The state Department of Health is planning a week dedicated to ending smoking tobacco addiction, officials said. Wyoming has more chewing tobacco users per capita than any state besides West Virginia. Through With Chew Week will take place Feb. 13-19.

## Jury duty pays off

**MA** BOSTON — Edward H. Walsh was hanging out with friends on a South Boston beach in 1978 when he made a gesture with his hand, his high school class ring flew off and got lost in the sand.

He looked for it, but never expected to see it again.

Walsh, Don Bosco Tech class of 1978, grew up, and got married to another man shortly after gay marriage became legal in Massachusetts.

His husband, Kevin Kennedy, was serving as a foreman on a civil jury in Boston last month when he got talking to a 65-year-old woman from South Boston who happened to be an inveterate beach comber.

The woman, Mary Maberry, happened to mention some of the things she had found on the beach over the years, including a 1978 class ring she found last spring carved with the initials EWH inside from the now closed high school.

Maberry, a retired nurse, had tried to find the owner of the ring, but had not been able to locate a 1978 Don Bosco yearbook.

Kennedy mentioned in passing that his husband graduated from Don Bosco in 1978, and he would ask if he had a yearbook for that year.

Maberry, out of curiosity, had Kennedy write down his husband's initials.

She returned to the Suffolk County courthouse the next day and gave the ring to Kennedy, who had no idea Walsh had even lost a class ring. Maberry suggested giving Walsh the ring back on Christmas, which Kennedy did.

"I was slack-jawed," said Walsh, 44. "It's my ring."



## Running by moonlight

A jogger is silhouetted in the full moon while running along the Walnut Street bridge in Chattanooga, Tenn.



## Snow fun

An 8-month-old Sumatran tiger cub frolics at the National Zoo during Washington's first snow of the season.



## I feel pretty

Sally Beckman, right, a stylist with Rejeunve Medspa of Centralia, Ill., tends to details in Deanna Downen's hairstyle at Bridal Expo-Year 2005, at the Centralia Recreation Complex. Beckman was working during the bridal fair's popular style show, which featured clothing for children, men, women and brides-to-be.



## On the up and up

A construction worker from Miron Construction Co. Inc. climbs the stairs in the new city parking garage in downtown Green Bay, Wis.





**Heating things up**  
ville, Fla., shortly after sunrise.

With the air temperature in the 20s, swimmers do laps through the fog created by the warm 84-degree water of the Bolles School pool in Jacksonville, Fla., shortly after sunrise.



**Walk on the cold side**

Joan Lintault, left, and Elaine Blythe walk with Taro, Lintault's dog, on a road through a windswept field on the Mohonk Preserve in New Paltz, N.Y.



**Swing time**

Hayley Aliperto, 4, swings at Gibson Park in Great Falls, Mont. While the eastern United States digs out from a blizzard, the National Weather Service was predicting record heat in Great Falls, Mont.



**Rattling their nerves**

Mary Ann Yarbrough, aka the Snake Lady, travels around to schools, giving talks about snakes common to the state of Alabama. Here she shows off a rattlesnake to students at Isabella Elementary School in Maplesville, Ala.

## Richmond police chief

**VA** RICHMOND — Rodney David Monroe, police chief of Macon, Ga., will take the same job in Richmond, Va., city officials announced.

Monroe, 47, was introduced at a news conference at police headquarters and will begin overseeing the department of 628 police officers in two to three weeks.

Virginia's capital city has been plagued by drug crime and has had nearly 100 murders a year recently.

## Vandals halt classes

**VT** JERICHO — Vandals disconnected buses from heaters, tampered with some of the vehicles' engines and threw water at their doors to freeze them shut, forcing schools in five towns to close for the day.

"State police are involved. We are calling Crime Stoppers. We are discussing a reward. This is not something we're going to be taking lightly," said Bob Magee, the transportation supervisor for the Chittenden East Supervisory Union school district.

## Leader leaves NAACP

**WA** SEATTLE — Carl B. Mack, known for forceful, outspoken candor as president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has been named executive director of the National Society of Black Engineers.

Mack, 42, was chosen by a search committee to succeed Michele Lezama, according to a news release issued by the engineers group in Alexandria, Va., one of the largest student-run organizations nationwide with about 15,000 members and about 300 chapters.

## Grading the Ivy League

**NJ** PRINCETON — For students at Princeton University, final exams are even more stressful this year: The Ivy League school decided to make it harder to earn an A.

The crackdown on high grades, part of a national battle against grade inflation at elite schools, has increased anxiety, and in some cases, made friendly rivalry between whether they should offer study help to their competitors, er, classmates.

"Sometimes, your old high school mentality comes back to haunt you," said Monica Saumoy, recalling the cutthroat competition to get the grades she needed to get into Princeton.

Previously, there was no official limit to the number of A's handed out, and nearly half the grades in an average Princeton class have been A-pluses, A's or A-minuses. Now, each department can give A's to no more than 35 percent of its students each semester.

Princeton's effort is being monitored closely by other hallowed halls, and some expect to see a ripple effect in coming years.

## No homes on this range

**ND** BERTHOLD — The grasslands, tree groves and wetlands, with signs warning hunters to keep out, mark a stretch of rolling prairie near here as a haven for wildlife.

Court documents mark it as something else: the focus of a battle over a North Dakota law that conservationists say is unmatched in the nation.

The 1985 law requires land buyers to submit their plans to a public review board, and gives the governor final authority to approve or reject any purchases.

Farm groups and county officials who support the measure say it helps ensure that farmland will not be lost. Conservationists and other critics say it hampers their work and keeps new groups from operating in North Dakota.

But no one had tried to challenge the law until this year, when James Cook, of Eden Prairie, Minn., refused to back down from his purchase of more than 1,400 acres for use as protected wildlife habitat.

## Flood wall not needed

**PA** DANVILLE — Although construction of flood walls often force communities downstream to raise their own flood walls, a proposed flood control project in Bloomsburg should not have that effect on Danville, a federal official said.

"Our analysis shows that river surface elevations along the river are the same with the project or without the project," said Mary Dan, project manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"There shouldn't be any changes downstream."

A flood wall keeps water in a river that otherwise would flood a community. In doing so, it sends more water downstream. But the Corps of Engineers used sophisticated computer models of the North Branch of the Susquehanna River to determine that Danville will not have to raise its walls, authorities said.

## Wide open spaces

**ID** BOISE — A legislative panel unanimously agreed to consider expanding Statehouse facilities with 800 new square feet in a building across the street from the Capitol. The current Statehouse needs about \$80 million in repairs for electrical, plumbing and other mechanical problems.

## Man sues for lost time

**FL** PORT ST. JOHN — A man freed after serving 22 years behind bars for a rape he didn't commit plans to ask the state legislature for about \$4.9 million in compensation — and is getting some high-powered help with his request.

Wilton A. Dedge, 43, was freed after DNA evidence exonerated him Aug. 12 in the 1981 rape of a 17-year-old girl. He left with a few possessions in a plastic bag, but without a bus ticket or the \$100 the state gives to most freed convicts.

Now, Dedge and his attorneys are asking legislators to pass a special claims bill worth about \$4.9 million in compensation for lost wages, wrongful imprisonment and costs incurred by his family and lawyers. Dedge was convicted in 1982, and again in 1984 on a retrial.

"How can you put a number on it?" Dedge asked. "There's no right number. I would rather have the time back."

Dedge's team used three expert economists to come up with figures for lost wages and earning potential.

Stories and photos from wire services

## FACES

## 'Spaces' revamp leaves Davis jobless

Struggling to compete with the rise of home makeover shows across network and cable television, TLC's "Trading Spaces" will undergo a facelift. After this spring, "Spaces" will move to a host-less format, meaning that Paige Davis will be departing the cast.

"We believe that this new creative direction will enable the show to be more spontaneous, focus more on the homeowners and designers, and create alternative home trades in different cities and on opposite coasts," the network says in a statement.

Davis joined "Trading Spaces" in 2001 and has been hosting ever since. It's unclear if TLC's decision to go hostless had anything to do with the pictures of Davis doing a striptease at a party and the unfounded rumors of a Davis sex tape had anything to do with the decision.



Davis

## HBO sweeps major producers categories

Premium cable giant HBO dominated Saturday night's Producers Guild of America awards, winning prizes for drama, comedy and long-form programming.

The Norman Felton Producer of the Year Award for episodic drama went to HBO's "The Sopranos" and the award for David Chase, Brad Grey, Mitchell Burgess, Robin Green, Ilene S. Landress, Terence Winter, Henry Bronstein, Matthew Weiner and Martin Brustle. The mob drama, which won its first outstanding drama Emmy last fall, also won the PGA drama award back in 2000.

HBO's "Curb Your Enthusiasm" also won its second Danny Thomas Producer of the Year Award for episodic comedy. Larry David, Jeff Garlin, Robert B. Weide and Tim Gibbons were the show's honored producers.

## Kutcher brings 'Beauty' to the WB

Ashton Kutcher and producing partner Jason Goldberg are making their first foray into network reality production with The WB's provocatively titled "Beauty and the Geek." The series has recently begun production.

"It's a kind of make-over-meets-a-competition show, where we pair really intelligent young men, high-IQ Mensa students, with some really attractive women who may not quite have the same capacity," explains WB Entertainment President David Janollari.

On the production side, Kutcher and Goldberg are best known, of course, for the MTV series "Punk'd." Janollari promises that despite the somewhat sketchy premise, the new series won't be mean-spirited. In the show's premise, the very different men and women are paired up and they're expected to share their strengths to become a well-rounded couple.



Kutcher

## 'Reba' says hello, Dolly

Reba McEntire will be joined on her sitcom by another country-music star later this season when Dolly Parton guest-stars on an episode.

The episode, which tapes in mid-February, will be a rare sitcom appearance for Parton, her last such guest spot was on an episode of CBS's short-lived "Bette" in October 2000. She's also appeared on "Designing Women."

In the "Reba" episode, which doesn't have an airdate yet, she'll be playing a successful real-estate broker who crosses paths with Reba, who's entering the business herself. The two was crafted with Parton in mind.



Reba

## 'What I Like' stages '90210' reunion

The Feb. 25 episode of The WB's "What I Like About You" will briefly reunite "Beverly Hills, 90210" stars Luke Perry and Jennie Garth, which most mean that somewhere out there, Shannon Doherty is storming off in disgust. Perry's appearance leads a list of February sweeps stunts on The WB.

Perry will appear in the episode called "Dangerous Liaisons."

Stories and photos from wire services

## Just a team player

## Kevin Costner is game for a new character (but an old role) in 'The Upside of Anger'

BY DAVID GERMAIN

The Associated Press

There are three notable differences in Kevin Costner's latest career move as a big-screen ballplayer:

■ The star of the previous baseball flicks "Bull Durham," "Field of Dreams" and "For Love of the Game" plays a retired ballplayer in the comic drama "The Upside of Anger," which premiered over the weekend at the Sundance Film Festival.

■ Costner is a supporting performer to the film's central character, played by Joan Allen.

■ The actor known for such sober dramas as "Dances With Wolves," "JFK" and "The Untouchables" is playing a good old goofball, a big-hearted meathead with a dopey laugh, a chronic marijuana buzz and a long-neck beer bottle perpetually in hand.

When writer-director Mike Binder's script for "The Upside of Anger" came his way, Costner had a moment's hesitation about doing another ballplayer.

"But listen, I'm not that timid about, 'Ooh, what are people going to think?'" Costner said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I didn't think 'Field of Dreams' had anything to do with 'For Love of the Game.' I didn't think that 'Love of the Game' had anything to do with 'Bull Durham.' And I didn't do any of them because they were baseball."

"When I saw this, I thought the not-careful journalists will write, 'Oh, another baseball movie.' But I did this because he was an interesting character."

Opening theatrically in March, "The Upside of Anger" stars Allen as a woman with four daughters (Erika Christensen, Evan Rachel Wood, Keri Russell and Alicia Witt) who turns boozy and caustically bitter after her husband pulls a vanishing act.

Costner plays Allen's laid-back neighbor, a former baseball star who becomes her drinking buddy and eventually tumbles into an uneasy relationship as her lover and referee for the woman's spats with her daughters.

Allen said it was refreshing for Costner to cut loose in a jollie role.

"I thought it would be fun to see him play something like that," Allen said. "We referred to him as a big teddy bear all the time. He was just really lovable and sweet and kind of goofy among all these women."

Binder, also co-starring as a lecherous pal who produces a radio talk show hosted by Costner's character, wrote the script with Allen in mind. The two had become chummy on the set of Allen's political drama "The Contender," in which Binder co-starred.

But it was Costner's star power that secured financing for the film. Costner, an Academy Award winner for best picture and director on "Dances With Wolves," never tried to muscle in on the production, though, said Binder, who wrote and starred in the HBO series "The Mind of the Married Man."



Kevin Costner, star of the film "The Upside of Anger," poses at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, where the comic drama premiered.

"He was the driving force behind getting the movie greenlighted, but he never used that power, which I respected," Binder said. "He was always one of the ensemble, one of the players. Never pulled rank. He never came to my editing room, never wanted me to recut anything. He truly was just a player and a supportive guy."

One of Hollywood's biggest box-office draws in the late 1980s and early '90s with "Field of Dreams," "Dances With Wolves" and "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves," Costner has had little results with his movies over the last 12 years.

Last summer's Western "Open Range," which Costner directed and starred in, and the golf romance "Tin Cup" were modest successes.

But his acclaimed political drama "Thirteen Days" failed to find an audience, and he had flops with such movies as the supernatural thriller "Drag- onfly" and the best flick "3000 Miles to Graceland."

Costner, who turned 50 this month,

said studio pressures to boost the films' commercial prospects undermined some of his big-budgeted movies.

"I think some of the movies haven't lived up to what they should have been," Costner said. "When they're not done for a lot of money, sometimes you get a clearer voice, one single voice, about what the movie's to be about. And some of the movies for me that have not performed as well as I thought they could have, I think was because too many voices enter into them."

Costner said he feels no career pressure to deliver another breakout hit, saying his films have been profitable enough between theatrical and home-video revenues.

"I know what my movies do economically. I like everybody else, understand what they do on opening weekend," Costner said. "The economic life of my movies, I'm really comfortable with what happens to them when they go out there, and so are the studios."







# Horoscope

Venus and Saturn engage in a game of tug of war. Observe how a current relationship represents a past relationship, especially a familial one. The stars highlight the opportunity for an "aha" moment. Isolate one lesson you are learning from a VIP in your life, and decide that this time you will learn it completely so as never to repeat it.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (January 27).** The exceptional work you do this year makes you a hit among the people you admire. But you've got to get the word out! Publicity is your ticket to making more money and pulling in more opportunities for personal development. Wisdom and romance go hand in hand this spring. Wise choices make love possible. Love signs are Scorpio and Cancer.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Ideas are expertly crafted into reality. Whatever your endeavor, you are completely engrossed, and you're doing it for yourself and no other. Perhaps that's why you come up with such an inspired result.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You'd like to throw caution to the wind, but something inside makes you hesitate. What you're intuiting is that right now plans must be meticulous in order to succeed. Write down each step.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** There are no easy fixes. But what you learn because of this could transform you into a master. Be willing to take on your task again and again until it is even better than the best you have ever achieved.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Your association with creative folks pushes you to get back in touch with your inner artist. For best results, put your work through the scrutiny of a checklist. Is it elegant, pure and functional?

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Back-burner projects now move to the front burner. You'll be glad you

waited because now things seem to be boiling on their own accord, and you're no longer waiting anxiously for something to happen.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).**

Pie-in-the-sky ideas are pitched to you. As much as you'd like to buy into magical thinking, your body will tell you it's the wrong thing to do. The sensible application of traditional principles brings progress.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Someone is trying to hide flaws from you. Have compassion. Nobody likes to be exposed. Let others know that it's safe to be real with you. And then honor the statement by being discreet.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Peek behind the curtain at this year. We were afraid to look at before. The truth has a sting to it, and then, it's over. One realization could turn your mood — and your life — from mediocre to great.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Someone is stuck in dogmatic and outworn ways, and you're just the person to bring this individual to the 21st century! Don't be afraid. It's time to step up and be a leader! You wear it well.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Haphazard relationship skills only lead to longing followed by disappointment. Structure is where it's at. Dare to state what you really want, and then, dare to move on if you don't get it.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Your compassion, empathy and optimism are off the charts. If you squint your eyes, you can almost see the web of light that connects all beings. Show your joy with practical action.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Troubles are blown out of proportion. Relationship issues are just miscommunication. And technical problems are not what you think they are. Remember the old standby fix: Unplug it for a minute, and then, boot up again.

Creators Syndicate

## Holiday Mathis



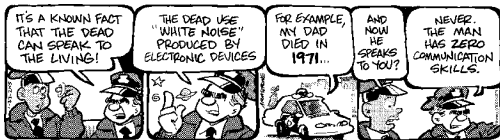
## Peanuts



## Calvin and Hobbes



## Jump Start



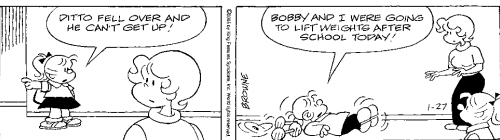
## Zits



## Cathy



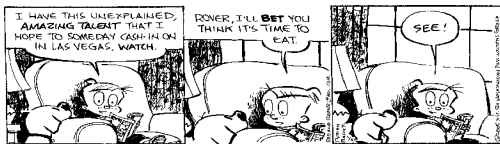
## Hi and Lois



## Beetle Bailey



## Red and Rover



## Better or Worse



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



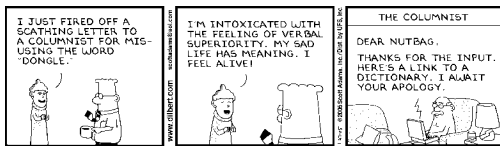
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



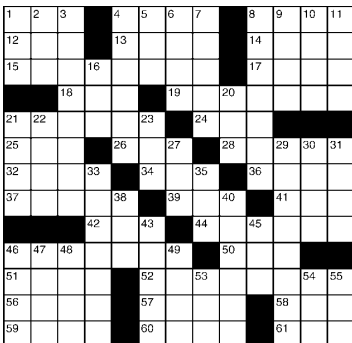
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Thanksgiving  
4 Infatuated  
8 Hoodlum  
12 Swiss canton  
13 Ellipse  
14 Passenger Parks  
15 Graphic illustration  
17 Lend a sneaky hand  
18 Sticky stuff  
19 Product ID  
21 Car vibration  
24 Trench  
25 Optimist  
26 A billion years  
28 "Fuhgeddaboutit!"  
32 One side of the Urals  
34 Kvetch  
36 Croupier's tool  
37 Whereabout  
39 Actor Robbins  
41 XIII quadrupled  
42 Sailor  
44 Hammock occupant  
46 Law student's challenge  
50 Grecian vessel  
51 Shakespeare's water  
52 Norm Peterson's perch  
56 Describe  
57 Family-biz abbr.  
58 Fair  
59 Notion

## Down

- 60 "Gotcha"  
61 Golfer Ernie  
1 Gist  
2 — pro nobis  
3 Santa  
4 "You Can't — Again!"  
5 Ms. Gardner  
6 Apparel  
7 Sacrifice site  
8 Farm machine  
9 Vagrant  
10 Secondhand  
11 Airport exit  
16 URL ending  
20 Skeddadle  
21 Swindle  
22 Firetruck necessity  
23 Thither  
27 Writer Hentoff  
29 Minim, in music  
30 Tom Joad, e.g.  
31 "Master and Commander" director  
33 Aerial  
35 Hodges of baseball  
38 Kenny G's instrument  
40 Fluffy dessert  
43 Synagogue VIP  
45 Museum stuff  
46 Indonesian island  
47 Enthusiast  
48 "The Eternal City"  
49 Pathfinder destination  
53 Caviar  
54 Night bird  
55 — Alamos

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



I-27

## CRYPTOQUIP

NECLE OXHF CJB J U  
RNXK RFB J REHV K  
KNBW C J HFZJ'R LZOCUZW?

UEB UEXBB FVRLZU-BBXR!  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A MAN TRIES TO COMPEL YOU TO BUY A BOAT, WOULD YOU CONSIDER IT A SAILS PITCH?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals W







# 10 Bowls that were Super:

BY SCOTT ADAMSON  
Birmingham (Ala.) Post Herald

The field is set for Super Bowl XXXIX, in which the New England Patriots will tangle with the Philadelphia Eagles on Feb. 6 in Jacksonville.

Will it be a close battle from start to finish or a blowout? The Super Bowl has featured plenty of both.

The 2003 showdown between Tampa Bay and Oakland was over almost as soon as it began, with the Buccaneers wiping out the Raiders 49-21.

In 1995, San Francisco embarrassed the San Diego 49-26, but that was nothing compared to Dallas' 52-17 drubbing of Buffalo in 1993, or the 49ers' 55-10 beatdown of Denver in 1990.

Yet, just as there have been plenty of blowouts in the Super Bowl, there have also been several contests that have been highly competitive and entertaining. Here are 10 of the best:

## SB XXXVIII: Feb. 1, 2004

**New England 32, Carolina 29:** Thirty-eight Super Bowls, and the NFL's best for last time.

Nearly a year ago in Houston, kicker Adam Vinatieri closed the books on one of the most exciting championship games ever when his 41-yard field goal with four seconds remaining gave the Patriots a victory over the Panthers.

It was the second time in three years Vinatieri had accounted for a victory in pro football's biggest contest, and his boot with four seconds to go sealed the deal on a title tilt for the ages.

One was a donnybrook from the opening kickoff, with Patriots quarterback Tom Brady going 32-for-48 for 354 yards and three TDs.

Carolina's Jake Delhomme was nearly as effective, also tossing three touchdowns and accounting for 323 yards through the air.

The frantic finish came with 1:08 to play when Brady and the Pats started at their own 40 following an errant Panthers kickoff. Brady calmly drove the team down the field, and Vinatieri took care of the rest.

## SB XXXVII: Feb. 3, 2002

**New England 20, St. Louis 17:** The finale of the 2002 season was supposed to be a showcase for the Rams, which possessed one of the greatest offenses in NFL history.

Instead, this game will be remembered as the one that saw the Cincinnati Patriots shock the world with a final-play victory.

Although St. Louis finished the night with a 427-267 advantage in total yards, New England led 14-3 at halftime and pulled in front 17-3 late in the third quarter.

The Rams stormed back, and with 1:30 to go in regulation Kurt Warner threw a 26-yard touchdown pass to Ricky Proehl to tie the score.

New England got the ball back with no timeouts, and TV announcer John Madden suggested that the Pats would simply run the clock out and try to win in overtime. Brady had other ideas.

## Commentary

Brady, who would win MVP honors thanks to a 16-for-27, 145-yard passing day, marched New England to the St. Louis 30, where Vinatieri nailed a 48-yard game-winner, marking the first time in Super Bowl history the game had been decided as time ran out.

## SB XXXIX: Jan. 30, 2000

**St. Louis 23, Tennessee 16:** This one didn't match the drama of the 2002 contest, but it came close.

The Rams had trouble moving the ball against a tough Titans defense, but managed to grab a 16-0 lead in the third quarter.

However, the Titans clawed back in contention, tying it at 16-all when Al Del Greco booted a 43-yard field goal with 2:12 remaining in the game.

Back came the Rams.

It took just a few seconds for St. Louis to regain the lead, this time with Warner hitting Issac Bruce on a 73-yard touchdown toss with 1:54 to go, Warner's only completion of the fourth quarter.

Tennessee responded, using the passing of Steve McNair to make it down to the St. Louis 10 with six seconds to go. With no timeouts, McNair threw to Kevin Dyson on a quick-slant pattern. He collided with Rams defender Mike Jones at the 1-yard line and — despite his best stretching maneuver — couldn't put the ball across the goal line, thus preserving the first Super Bowl victory in Rams franchise history.

## SB XXXII: Jan. 25, 1998

**Denver 31, Green Bay 24:** This was the game that was supposed to re-establish the Green



New England Patriots kicker Adam Vinatieri celebrates his game-winning field goal in the final seconds of Super Bowl XXXVIII in Houston.

Packers as an NFL dynasty. Instead, it gave Hall of Famer John Elway the only thing that had eluded him in his illustrious career — a world championship.

The NFC champion had claimed 13 consecutive Super Bowls, and most expected expected Brett Favre to lead the Packers to their second in a row.

However, Elway's passing and the rushing of Terrell Davis would help the Broncos build a 17-7 advantage before the half.

The contest went back and

forth after intermission, and the Packers tied things up at 24-24 with 3:27 showing on the fourth quarter clock.

With 1:45 to go, Denver made it 31-24 on a 1-yard plunge by Davis, but Green Bay had plenty of time to even things up once again and force overtime. Unfortunately for cheesedheads everywhere, John Mobley swatted down a fourth-down pass from Favre with 32 seconds remaining, and Denver had the championship.

## SB XXV: Jan. 27, 1991

**New York Giants 20, Buffalo 19:** While the 2002 Super Bowl was the first won on the final play, the Bills almost held that honor.

Almost, but not quite.

In an outstanding defensive game, the Giants controlled the ball for 40 minutes, 33 seconds, keeping the potent Buffalo offense off the field. Still, Buffalo had a 12-3 lead midway through the second quarter before the Giants closed the gap to 12-10 at the break.

With the Giants clinging to a 20-19 edge, the Bills drove into field goal range in the waning moments. Scott Norwood had a chance to win it for Buffalo with a 47-yard kick.

The attempt sailed wide right, however, giving New York its second Super Bowl title in five years and handing the Bills the first of four consecutive title-game setbacks.

## SB XXXII: Jan. 22, 1998

**San Francisco 20, Cincinnati 16:** Joe Montana already had established himself as one of the all-time greats by leading the

49ers to two Super Bowl titles. This game, however, was one to remember.

Cincinnati held a 16-13 lead with 3:20 to go when San Francisco took over at its 8-yard line. Montana would move San Francisco 82 yards in 11 snaps, capped off by a 10-yard scoring toss to John Taylor with 34 seconds to go.

Montana closed out the day by connecting on 23 of 36 passes for a record 357 yards and two scores, while Jerry Rice was chosen MVP thanks to 11 catches and 215 yards, another Super Bowl record.

## SB XVI: Jan. 24, 1982

**San Francisco 26, Cincinnati 21:** Montana again put up big passing numbers, but it was the four field goals by Ray Wersching that made the difference.

San Francisco built a 20-0 lead and never trailed. The Bengals made the game look closer than it actually was when Kern Anderson hit Dan Ross on a 13-yard scoring pass with 16 seconds remaining.

## SB XIII: Jan. 21, 1979

**Pittsburgh 35, Dallas 31:** This game turned out the Terry Bradshaw show, with the former Louisiana Tech standout throwing four touchdowns passes to help Pittsburgh become the first team to win three Super Bowls.

Another game near or close to the score would indicate, the Steelers built a 35-17 lead before the Cowboys came back to make it look respectable.

Bradshaw, in an MVP performance, was 17-for-30 passing for 318 yards.

## SB X: Jan. 18, 1976

**Pittsburgh 21, Dallas 17:** Again it was Bradshaw who paced the Steelers, hitting Lynn Swann on a 64-yard TD pass to set the tone for a contest that saw Dallas forced to play catch-up most of the night.

The Cowboys' chance at a dramatic come-from-behind victory came up short when Roger Staubach was intercepted in the end zone on the final play of the game.

## SB V: Jan. 17, 1971

**Baltimore 16, Dallas 13:** Thirty-one years before Vinatieri won the Super Bowl on the final play, Colts coach Jim O'Brien did the honors with five seconds to go on a 32-yard field goal.

The Colts and Cowboys had been looked in a defensive struggle all afternoon, with the Cowboys holding a 13-6 edge at the half before Baltimore tied things up on John Mackey's 75-yard TD reception from Earl Edwards — a pass that was tipped by Dallas defender Mel Renfro after glancing off the hands of Colts receiver Eddie Hinton.

Aside from the late game heroics, the fifth Super Bowl is notable for two other things: It was the first played on artificial turf and Dallas' Clemon Taylor was the first defensive player and first player on a losing team to be selected Most Valuable Player.



Tennessee Titans WR Kevin Dyson (87) is tackled short of the goal line by St. Louis Rams LB Mike Jones on the final play of Super Bowl XXXIV to preserve the Rams' 23-16 victory.

# Eagles trainer: Owens might play

Doctor won't clear Philly receiver, who will continue rehab anyway

By ROB MAADDI

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Terrell Owens might try to play in the Super Bowl, ignoring his doctor's orders.

Philadelphia Eagles head trainer Rick Burkholder said Wednesday that Owens plans to continue rehabbing his injured ankle in an attempt to suit up against the New England Patriots on Feb. 6.

Dr. Mark Myerson, the surgeon who operated on the All-Pro receiver in December, said Tuesday he would not clear Owens to play in the Super Bowl.

"We understand Dr. Myerson's point of view. It's just that our risk-reward is different than his risk-reward," Burkholder said.

"He has great risk in clearing Terrell to play and no reward. We think there's some risk and we think there's a great reward, so right now we're going to progress with his rehab."

Owens was at the Eagles' practice facility for rehab work Wednesday, but the team said he wouldn't be made available to reporters.

On Monday, before hearing Myerson's bad news, Owens said: "Spiritually I've been healed and I believe that I'll be out there on that field Sunday, regardless of what anybody says."

Myerson inserted two screws in Owens' right ankle and a plate on the outside of the ankle three days after he was injured against Dallas on Dec. 19. By not clearing Owens to play, Myerson should



Eagles wide receiver Terrell Owens urges fans to cheer at the 76ers game on Monday. Owens wasn't as happy on Tuesday when his doctor said he shouldn't play in the Super Bowl on Feb. 6.

be absolved of any blame if Owens goes against his wishes and winds up re-injuring the ankle.

Owens was told after surgery that he had only an outside chance of returning for the Super

Bowl, which was 6½ weeks away at the time. But he rehabbed vigorously, hoping to help Philadelphia win its first NFL championship since 1960.

But after a checkup Tuesday in Baltimore, Myerson said that

while he's pleased with Owens' recuperation, the operation requires a recovery period of eight to 10 weeks. Myerson added that any attempt to accelerate the rehabilitation process poses the same risk for injury.

Burkholder said Owens worked out on a treadmill when he returned to Philadelphia on Tuesday.

"We will continue to see whether he can jog and see how he does day in and day out, see if he can change direction," Burkholder said Wednesday.

"If he passes all those tests, then we'll start talking about practice time. Right now, the game isn't even in our vision right now. If he has any setbacks in his rehab, then the whole idea of playing in the Super Bowl is probably off."

In his first season with the Eagles after eight years in San Francisco, Owens led Philadelphia with 77 catches for 1,200 yards and 14 TDs.

Quarterback Donovan McNabb and other Eagles have said they don't need Owens to beat the defending champion Patriots, who are 7-point favorites.

"We can win it without T.O. But, if he is there, we can win it with him and we are definitely going to try to win it without him," McNabb said Monday.

"I think he will be back," he added.

"But, if he can't be back, we have to continue this ship home."

## Is there anyone who will tell T.O. 'No'?

Thereason an athlete visits an orthopedic surgeon as opposed to a faith healer should be evident: You can't always count on divine intervention.

And as while it was uplifting to hear Terrell Owens say, "Spiritually, God is healing me and I'm way ahead of where a lot of people expect me to be," it's a good thing he bothered to get a second opinion. Even if it wasn't the one he wanted, it was the one Owens needed.

A month ago, Dr. Mark Myerson needed two screws and a plate to put Owens' right ankle back together. After Tuesday's weekly checkup, Myerson said he was pleased with his patient's recuperation, but still refused to clear him to play in the Super Bowl.

Yes, Owens looked healthy patrolling the sideline in Philadelphia last Sunday, waving a towel and snapping up the loose ends. But that means something only if he's auditioning for the cheerleader squad. The guys on New England's defense can appreciate a courageous comeback story more than you, but once they get inside the lines, that won't keep them from going after his bum ankle.

Jim Litke



Still, the team's doctors and trainers apparently have the final say. If they green-light Owens for the Super Bowl, the only place to they should be allowed to operate an X-ray machine is at an airport.

It's easy to understand the temptation on all sides, of course.

Games that mean as much to a player as the Super Bowl only come along every so often, and pro football careers are notoriously short and risky to begin with. On top of that, the most inspirational moments in sports are about guys playing with pain that makes you wince just reading about it.

The hands-down winner in the category is Muhammad Ali fighting all 12 rounds against Ken Norton in 1973 after his jaw was

busted by a punch in the second. But it's hardly the only one.

Last October, it was Curt Schilling busting the stitches holding together a frayed tendon so he could work seven innings of Game 6 against the Yankees. Three decades earlier, it was Willie Reed dragging a bum leg into the center circle for the jump ball against Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in Game 7 of the 1970 NBA Finals. And then there was Kirk Gibson's gimpy-kneed tour of the bases after his walk-off homer against the A's All-Star closer, Dennis Eckersley, in Game 1 of the 1988 World Series.

If those moments sent chills down your spine, imagine the effect it had on the field.

"When he hit that ball," Oakland shortstop Walt Weiss said about Gibson back then, "it was almost surreal. As devastating as a blow as it was, I remember running off the field and saying, 'Man, that was unbelievable.'"

And while football may be the one sport that rivals boxing in its physical demands, there are plenty of inspirational tales to go around. The best of that lot is about Rams defender Jack Youngblood.

In the first half of a 1979 payoff game against the Cowboys, he

was chop-blocked by two Dallas linemen, causing his left fibula to snap above the ankle. Youngblood talked the trainers into taping him up at halftime, finished the game and played the next two wearing a brace. The Steelers spoiled any chance of a happy ending by beating the Rams in the Super Bowl.

"I was young years in the league at that point in time," Youngblood recalled during an interview on his return to the Hall of Fame in Pittsburgh last year. "I didn't know whether I would have another opportunity or not, to tell you the truth."

Similarly, this is Owens' ninth season in the league. Orthopedic medicine has made significant strides in the intervening years, but miracles remain outside its reach. If Owens is counting on the odds, or relying on the opinion of the company doctors, he'd do well to remember why Myerson said no in the first place.

His decision absolves the doctor of any blame should Owens re-injure the ankle — or worse. But more likely, Myerson made it knowing the sheer number of disastrous outcomes are more likely than rare successes so memorable.

A career, after all, is a terrible thing to waste.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at: jlitke@ap.org

## Steelers coach says QB didn't play with two broken toes

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Rookie quarterback Ben Roethlisberger was exaggerating when he said he broke two toes on his right foot during the AFC championship game, Pittsburgh Steelers coach Bill Cowher said Wednesday.

Roethlisberger told reporters Tuesday he wore down physically during the season and broke two toes while scrambling late in the first half of the 41-27 loss to the New England Patriots.

Cowher seemed irritated Roethlisberger would go public with such a claim, that, in effect, suggested the Steelers gambled with the NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year's health by playing him when he was hurt.

"We are unaware of any problems with his toes, OK?" Cowher said.

Roethlisberger didn't specify which toes were broken and wasn't walking with an apparent limp Monday or Tuesday.

"Ben does not have broken toes," Cowher said, talking publicly for the first time since Sunday night, when the Steelers lost an AFC title game for the fourth time in 11 seasons. "At the end of the first half, while scrambling, he aggravated some toes he has broken in the past, in high school and college. He's had some things to Ryan Grove, our assistant trainer, and said he may have broke his toe. When he came off, he said he was fine and he went back out in the second half and didn't say anything to anybody else for the rest of the game."

Cowher said the injury was never mentioned during his meeting with Roethlisberger on Monday and nothing showed up during the rookie's physical exam Tuesday.

"I talked to Ben last night, and got it straight from his mouth, and he said he didn't know anything about it," Cowher said.

**St: Brady was bed-ridden right before game**  
FOXBORO, Mass. — New England quarterback Tom Brady had a 103 degree fever the night before the Patriots beat the Pittsburgh Steelers in the AFC championship game, Sports Illustrated reported.

The magazine said in this week's issue that Brady had an intravenous line in his arm on the non-throwing — arm on Saturday night while fighting off chills in his Pittsburgh hotel room.

Patriots spokesman Stacey James did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment.

**Jags hire USC assistant**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The Jacksonville Jaguars hired South Carolina's California quarterbacks coach Keith Smith as offensive coordinator Tuesday.

The 56-year-old Smith replaces Bill Musgrave, who was fired after the Jags fired last at the AFC and 29th in the league in scoring last season.

# Suns, Sonics are two for three

## Division leaders at home from long range in road wins

The Associated Press

The Phoenix Suns put on a three-point show at Madison Square Garden, and Vladimir Radmanovic did the same for Seattle.

On a big night for long-range shooters all over the NBA, Radmanovic scored all but two of his 26 points on eight three-pointers to lead the visiting SuperSonics over the Los Angeles Lakers 104-94 on Tuesday.

"One time, I think I was in the parking lot and I had my hand right in front of him, but he just pulled up and shot the ball. He had a great night," Lakers guard Caron Butler said.

Phoenix tied a team record with 16 three-pointers and finished with its highest point total of the season in a 133-118 victory over the New York Knicks. Quentin Richardson went 7-for-14 from behind the arc, Jim Jackson was 5-for-6 and the Suns made 50 percent of their three's.

It was the most points by a Knicks opponent since Portland scored 141 on Nov. 15, 1990, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

"We were into a groove, and it kind of got contagious where everyone was hitting them," Richardson said.

Amare Stoudemire scored 29 points, Richardson had 25, Joe Johnson 24 and Shawn Marion 20 for Phoenix.

The loss was the seventh in a row for the Knicks, who obviously haven't latched onto new coach Herb Williams' emphasis on defense.

The 16 three-pointers were the most allowed in franchise history.

### NBA roundup

Stephen Marbury said,

Jamal Crawford led the Knicks with 40 points.

At Los Angeles, Radmanovic shot 9-for-17, including 8-for-14 from long range, in coming within one point of his season-high and three points of his career best. Despite feeling sick for about a week, he made nine of his first 11 shots.

"Probably the virus that I have is a good basketball virus," Radmanovic said. "I'm just trying to play through it."

Radmanovic was sick to the point that he sat out practice Monday.

"At the beginning of the game, I didn't have enough energy," he said. "I was slow motion. Later on, I got warmed up. I'm looking a little bit better, but I'm not sure."

Ray Allen added four three-pointers and 25 points, and Rashard Lewis scored 21 for the Northwest Division leader, Sonics, whose 29-11 record is the third-best in the NBA.

The Lakers (22-17) missed another opportunity for a season-high three-game winning streak. They've won consecutive games nine times, but failed in each of those situations to win a third straight.

Lamar Odom led the Lakers with 19 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists.

"Those guys play totally different basketball. They don't play regular basketball. They just shoot three's for days," New York's

**Bulls 111, Nuggets 107:** At Chicago, Kirk Hinrich scored 23 points, Eddy Curry shook off a groin injury to add 14 in the fourth quarter and the surging Bulls won for the 11th time in 12 games.

Denver broke Chicago's string of holding opponents to less than 100 points at 26 games, but couldn't pull out the victory despite getting 32 points — 15 in the fourth quarter — from Carmelo Anthony.

**Celtics 97, Bobcats 92:** Paul Pierce scored 33 points to help Boston end its nine-game road losing streak and hand the Bobcats their ninth loss in a row overall.

Eneke Okafor scored all 20 of his points in the second half and added 12 rebounds and five blocks for the Bobcats. But he was 0-for-4 at the line — and the Bobcats were 10-for-22.

**Grizzlies 95, Magic 83:** At Memphis, Steve Stromele Swift had 18 points and nine rebounds for the Grizzlies, who had seven players in double figures and outscored the Magic 20-6 in the final 4:05 to secure their 12th win in 14 games.

The Grizzlies needed the balanced offense after Pau Gasol, their leading scorer and rebounder, was placed on the injured list earlier in the day with a left foot injury. Key reserve Bonzi Wells also sat out with a groin strain.

**Kings 113, Nets 93:** At Sacramento, Calin Brad Miller had a season-high 12 and 12 rebounds while making 11 straight shots, and the Kings rebounded from an embarrassing loss.



Knicks guard Stephen Marbury grabs the arm of Suns forward Amare Stoudemire in the Suns 133-118 victory.

Peja Stojakovic scored 25 points and Cuttino Mobley had 20 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds for the Kings, who made a season-best 55 percent of their shots and recovered nicely from their worst home loss in nine years. San Antonio beat the 103-73 Sunday night, snapping a six-game winning streak.

Miller thrived in the absence of Chris Webber, who sat out with a sprained right ankle. The Kings' leading scorer and rebounder hopes to return for their rematch with San Antonio on Thursday night.

Miller made every shot he took during the final three quarters and finished 14-for-18 while assuming Webber's playmaking role atop the offense. Mike Bibby had 19 points — including four three-pointers — and 10 assists.

### NBA scoreboard

#### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	21	12	63%
Boston	22	12	65%
Brooklyn	18	16	53%
New York	17	17	50%
New Jersey	9	25	26%
Southeast Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	25	6	81%
Washington	25	10	71%
Orlando	21	14	60%
Charlotte	18	17	51%
Atlanta	18	17	51%
Central Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	21	16	57%
Detroit	23	18	56%
Chicago	21	16	57%
Indiana	20	15	57%
Memphis	20	15	57%
Minnesota	19	16	54%

Western Conference			
Northwest Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	21	12	63%
Seattle	21	12	63%
Vancouver	18	16	53%
San Antonio	17	17	50%
Dallas	17	17	50%
Phoenix	17	17	50%
Houston	23	14	62%
New Orleans	18	17	51%
Southwest Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	21	12	63%
Dallas	21	12	63%
Phoenix	21	12	63%
Houston	23	14	62%
New Orleans	18	17	51%
Pacific Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	21	12	63%
Minnesota	22	13	63%
Los Angeles	21	12	63%
Portland	16	18	47%
Golden State	16	18	47%
Phoenix	15	19	44%

Today's games			
Home	Away	Time	TV
Phoenix 133	New York 118	8:00	ESPN
Sacramento 104	New Jersey 99	8:00	ESPN
Chicago 111	Denver 107	8:00	ESPN
Seattle 104	Lakers 93	8:00	ESPN

Yesterday's games			
Home	Away	Score	TV
Boston 97	Charlotte 92	97-92	ESPN
Phoenix 133	New York 118	133-118	ESPN
Sacramento 104	New Jersey 99	104-99	ESPN
Chicago 111	Denver 107	111-107	ESPN
Seattle 104	Lakers 93	104-93	ESPN

	33	10	.767	—
ento	28	12	.700	3 1/2
ers	22	17	.564	9
ppers	19	22	.463	13
State	12	29	.293	20
<b>Tuesday's games</b>				
on 97, Charlotte 92				
ily 133 New York 118				

phils 95, Orlando 83  
ago 111, Denver 107  
amento 113, New Jersey 93  
le 104, L.A. Lakers 93

**Wednesday's games**

na at Boston  
il at Toronto  
phis at Cleveland

elphia at Washington  
 er at Detroit  
 nix at Milwaukee  
 ta at Minnesota  
 ton at New Orleans  
 le at Utah  
 s at Portland  
 Jersey at Golden State

akers at L.A. Clippers  
**Thursday's games**  
 it at Indiana  
 otte at Chicago  
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**Friday's games**

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to at Charlotte  
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nix at Boston  
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er at Milwaukee

#### Eastern Conference

L.A. Clippers at Portland  
New Jersey at L.A. Lakers  
Seattle at Golden State

#### Western Conference

Portland at Phoenix  
San Antonio at Dallas  
Houston at New Orleans

#### Today's games

Phoenix 133  
New York 118  
Sacramento 104  
New Jersey 99  
Chicago 111  
Denver 107  
Seattle 104  
Lakers 93

#### Yesterday's games

Boston 97  
Charlotte 92  
Phoenix 133  
New York 118  
Sacramento 104  
New Jersey 99  
Chicago 111  
Denver 107  
Seattle 104  
Lakers 93

#### Friday's games

Indiana 8  
Boston 7  
Memphis at Cleveland  
Golden State at Washington  
Denver at Detroit  
Atlanta at Minnesota  
Phoenix at New Orleans  
Baltimore at Utah  
San Antonio at New Jersey  
Chicago 111  
Denver 107  
Seattle 104  
Lakers 93

#### Saturday's games

Indiana 8  
Boston 7  
Memphis at Cleveland  
Golden State at Washington  
Denver at Detroit  
Atlanta at Minnesota  
Phoenix at New Orleans  
Baltimore at Utah  
San Antonio at New Jersey  
Chicago 111  
Denver 107  
Seattle 104  
Lakers 93

#### Sunday's games

Indiana 8  
Boston 7  
Memphis at Cleveland  
Golden State at Washington  
Denver at Detroit  
Atlanta at Minnesota  
Phoenix at New Orleans  
Baltimore at Utah  
San Antonio at New Jersey  
Chicago 111  
Denver 107  
Seattle 104  
Lakers 93

#### Monday's games

Indiana 8  
Boston 7  
Memphis at Cleveland  
Golden State at Washington  
Denver at Detroit  
Atlanta at Minnesota  
Phoenix at New Orleans  
Baltimore at Utah  
San Antonio at New Jersey  
Chicago 111  
Denver 107  
Seattle 104  
Lakers 93

#### Tuesday's games

Indiana 8  
Boston 7  
Memphis at Cleveland  
Golden State at Washington  
Denver at Detroit  
Atlanta at Minnesota  
Phoenix at New Orleans  
Baltimore at Utah  
San Antonio at New Jersey  
Chicago 111  
Denver 107  
Seattle 104  
Lakers 93

#### Wednesday's games

Indiana 8  
Boston 7  
Memphis at Cleveland  
Golden State at Washington  
Denver at Detroit  
Atlanta at Minnesota  
Phoenix at New Orleans  
Baltimore at Utah  
San Antonio at New Jersey  
Chicago 111  
Denver 107  
Seattle 104  
Lakers 93

#### Thursday's games

Indiana 8  
Boston 7  
Memphis at Cleveland  
Golden State at Washington  
Denver at Detroit  
Atlanta at Minnesota  
Phoenix at New Orleans  
Baltimore at Utah  
San Antonio at New Jersey  
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Lakers 93

#### Friday's games

Indiana 8  
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Golden State at Washington  
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Baltimore at Utah  
San Antonio at New Jersey  
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Denver 107  
Seattle 104  
Lakers 93

#### Bulls 111, Nuggets 107

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# Pacers' Jackson ready to return after suspension

BY JON KRAWCZYNSKI

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Stephen Jackson always has been an emotional player, known as much for his competitive fire as he is for knocking down clutch three-pointers.

But as he prepares to return from a 30-game suspension for his role in one of the most violent fights between players and fans in U.S. sports history, Jackson said he needs to rein in those emotions to keep history from repeating.

"I have to watch it," said Jackson, who will play in his first game since the Nov. 19 brawl Wednesday in Boston.

"Sometimes I get too fired up. I don't want to hold my emotions back, but I want to be smart out there on the court. That's what I have to do for my team to succeed is to be smarter on and off the court and try not to get sidetracked by all the other stuff that happens and just try to play basketball and help the team."

The last time Jackson got sidetracked, he was racing to the aid of teammate Ron Artest, who went into the stands to fight with Detroit fans after getting hit in the face with a cup.

Rather than trying to pull Artest from the melee, Jackson went in swinging wildly, connecting on a few punches.

Commissioner David Stern responded swiftly, suspending Artest for the rest of the season, Jackson for 30 games and Jermaine O'Neal for 25, a penalty that was reduced by an arbitrator to 15.

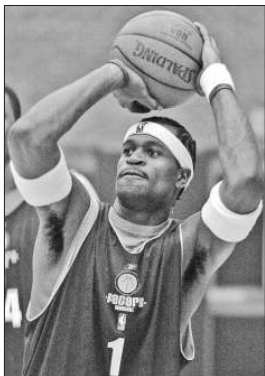
All the time away gave Jackson a chance to reflect on his actions, and he promised to be more composed in the future.

"I wouldn't just go into it thinking I have to swing blows," Jackson said when asked what he would do differently. "If I'm out, that puts our team in a deeper hole. I just have to think, I didn't think last time, I just went up there to protect my teammate."

"But I doubt if we'll be in a situation like that again. I just have to try to stay focused. It's going to be hard with somebody screaming at you not to retaliate, but I'm just going to try to stay away from confrontation and play basketball."

It will be a fine line that Jackson has to walk, because he knows the Pacers count on his energy to fuel them as much as his offense or defense.

"He's one of our top competitors," coach Rick Carlisle said. "Getting him back helps us on the floor,



Indiana's Stephen Jackson is set to play his first game Wednesday after a 30-game suspension he served for fighting with spectators on Nov. 19 at Detroit.

helps us with our depth chart, but it also gives us an extra spark, and that's important, because he's not only a good player, he's a guy that has that competitive fire that every team needs."

And the Pacers certainly need it right now. They are 4-6 in their last 10 games and have had difficulty putting together two good games in a row.

The Pacers have lost the second of back-to-back games four times in a row, and have another one this week when they follow their game at Boston with a home contest against Detroit on Thursday. Jackson can't wait to get back on the floor.

"I'm just going to go out and try to do everything on the court," Jackson said. "I don't limit my game. I can pass, I can shoot, I can defend, I can do it all so I'm going to try to do it all."

"That confidence shows that while the brawl and subsequent punishment had an impact, he is still 'the same ol' Steve.'"

"It hasn't changed me at all," Jackson said. "Obviously, I won't go in the stands again, but I'm the same person. I'm still for my team, I'm still going to go down fighting with my team but I think we still have to be a little smarter."

"The situation set us back a lot and set the organization back a lot so we just have to be smarter, try to think first before we do things. We can't afford to get into any more incidents. We have to come out, play basketball and win games."

# Five Indiana players spend a day in court

The Associated Press

ROCHESTER HILLS, Mich. — Five Indiana Pacers players and three fans charged in one of the most violent melees in NBA history appeared in court Tuesday — each at a separate hearing — and were released on bond.

The Pacers players, charged with misdemeanor assault and battery in the brawl with Detroit fans at The Palace of Auburn Hills, appeared for about three minutes each before District Judge Lisa Asadoorian.

Asadoorian allowed each of the players to leave the state and barred them from the Palace "except for employment-related purposes." Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson, Anthony Johnson, David Harrison and Jermaine O'Neal also were told they must attend the next hearing in the case, scheduled for April.

Three fans charged with misdemeanor assault and battery — John Ackerman, William Paulson and John Green — also appeared in court and were released on bond.

David Wallace, brother of Detroit Pistons center Ben Wallace, who also has been charged, was not in court Tuesday, but his attorney appeared on his behalf, said Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Paul Walton.

Bryant Jackson, a spectator at the Nov. 19 game, is charged with felonious assault for allegedly pushing a chair. He was ordered to stand trial following a preliminary examination that also took place Tuesday in Asadoorian's courtroom.

## Cavs' Varejao out 6 weeks

CLEVELAND — Cavaliers rookie forward Anderson Varejao might miss six weeks with a severely sprained left ankle, and oft-injured guard Dajuan Wagner is back in the hospital with a stomach ailment.

Varejao's loss is an especially tough one for the Cavaliers, who

## Briefs

have benefited from the shaggy-haired 6-foot-10 Brazilian's energy and hustle. Varejao, a reserve, is averaging 4.4 points and 4.6 rebounds in 13.7 minutes.

With Varejao out, backups DeSauna Diop and Scott Williams will get more playing time.

Varejao's injury might also accelerate general manager Jim Paxson's search for another big man through a trade. Varejao has become a fan favorite and a pleasant surprise for the Cavs, who acquired him along with Drew Gooden in a July trade with Orlando.

Meanwhile, Wagner has experienced additional effects from colitis — an inflamed large intestine — and was admitted to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Camden, N.J., for additional treatment.

## Hearing looms in Bryant case

DENVER — Attorneys in the civil case against Kobe Bryant are sparring over rules for witness interviews and whether the NBA star will be able to blame the emotional distress of his accuser on others.

The behind-the-scenes arguments come ahead of a hearing in Denver federal court on Feb. 2. It was unclear Tuesday whether Bryant or the woman accusing him of rape will be there. Neither is required to appear.

The woman's attorneys are fighting Bryant's assertions that media organizations, the state court system and people who threatened the woman share responsibility for the disclosure. She says she has suffered since their encounter in a Colorado resort hotel 19 months ago.

Attorneys for the Los Angeles Lakers player, meanwhile, are fighting attempts by the woman's attorneys to ask him questions about his sex life, calling it a "highly invasive fishing expedition."

# No proposals expected in new round of NHL labor talks

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Here's what will be missing from the next round of hockey negotiations: commissioner Gary Bettman, union chief Bob Goodenow and a new proposal from the NHL.

What will be present is the small hope that the hockey season can be saved.

"I think the setup of these meetings is what's important in terms of the small-group dynamic, the open discussion and dialogue," NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly told The Associated Press from Toronto, the site of Wednesday's negotiations with the players' association.

"It's less formal or structured than the meetings we've had in the past, and I think that's helpful to the process," he said.

For that reason, no new proposals will be presented.

Just like last week, when talks

## Sports briefs

were held for two days, discussions will continue in three-man groups and without Bettman and Goodenow. Both sides believe an open dialogue will help generate ideas better than working on a formal proposal.

"The players' association said that they felt like we should kind of work through possible joint solutions to this and at least hear what each other has to say," Daly said.

But time is running short to make a deal and save the season.

"We're in a critical stage, and that means we're down to days," Daly said. "We'll try to move the process forward and try to get a resolution."

NHLPA senior director Ted Sasaki declined comment until after Wednesday's meeting.

It was Vancouver center Trevor Linden who came up with the idea last week to talk with just six people in the room. Linden, the NHLPA president, invited Harley Hotchkiss — the chairman of the board of governors.

The structure was successful in generating ideas and discussion, but it did nothing to close the gap in the philosophical differences.

The NHL wants cost certainty, a link between player costs and team revenues. The players' association wants a free-market system. Daly said he has no reason to believe that either side will change its position Wednesday.

## Former coach says he took payoffs for Alabama recruits

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — A former high school coach testified that three Southeastern Conference schools paid him money for his top football player, including a

\$150,000 payoff from the University of Alabama.

Lynn Lang said he received the money on Alabama's behalf from Logan Young, a Memphis millionaire who is on trial on federal bribery and money laundering charges.

Lang, the former head coach at Trezevant High School, is awaiting sentencing on a guilty plea to racketeering conspiracy. He said he took the money to convince defensive lineman Albert Means to sign with the Crimson Tide in 2000.

Young's lawyers contend Lang is lying to save himself from a long prison sentence.

In testimony Tuesday in U.S. District Court, Lang said Alabama paid him money to steer Means to the school along with Kentucky and Georgia. He also testified that Tennessee, Mississippi, Michigan State and Arkansas offered money for Means but never paid.

Means, who has not been accused of wrongdoing, testified earlier in the day that he let Lang check him out.

Beginning his cross examination, defense lawyer James Neal questioned Lang about details of paying a payoff he made to federal investigators, the NCAA and officials with the Memphis school system.

Neal was to continue his questioning Wednesday.

## Michigan basketball player suspended indefinitely

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Point guard Daniel Horton was suspended from Michigan's basketball team a day after being charged with domestic violence for allegedly choking his girlfriend. Horton, free on a \$5,000 personal recognizance bond, is banned from all team activities including practice if convicted of misdemeanor charge, he could face up to 93 days in jail and a \$500 fine.



# Roddick-Hewitt showdown on tap

## Men's top four seeds reach semifinals

BY PAUL ALEXANDER

The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Andy Roddick had a much easier road to the Australian Open semifinals than he did two years ago, one that Leyton Hewitt can only envy. Averaging just 1½ hours per match, Roddick advanced Wednesday when Russia's Nikolay Davydenko experienced breathing problems for the second straight match and retired after trailing 6-3, 7-5, 4-1.

Roddick next faces Hewitt, a 6-3, 6-2, 1-6, 3-6, 10-8 winner over David Nalbandian in a 4-hour, 53-minute match with fireworks on and off the court.

The other semifinal has defending champion Roger Federer against Marat Safin in a rematch of last year's final. With No. 1 Federer, No. 2 Roddick, No. 3 Hewitt and No. 4 Safin still around, it's the first time since Wimbledon in 1995 that the four top-seeded men reached the semifinals in a Grand Slam.

Hewitt gave the home crowd plenty to cheer about in his gritty victory, with Australia Day fireworks going off near the arena in the third set.

"I just kept hanging in there," Hewitt said. "I had opportunities to break. I said 'Give it everything you've got.' In the end, it paid off once again."

Asked how he felt afterward, Hewitt joked: "I might go for a 10K run tomorrow."

The aggressive, intense Hewitt angered an opponent for the third time in four matches, brushing shoulders with Nalbandian as they passed during the crossover after Hewitt broke for a 3-2 lead in the second set. Nalbandian stared at Hewitt, who ran off the next three games.

Juan Ignacio Chela was fined for spitting in Hewitt's direction after the Australian cursed at him during their third-round match.

A round earlier, James Blake, clearly upset at Hewitt's antics to

fire up himself and the crowd, mocked Hewitt's trademark shout of "Come on!" while pointing his fingers at his forehead.

Nalbandian came back to win the third set, yielding only four points in Hewitt's three service games, then leveled the match with two breaks in the fourth set.

It turned into a contentious battle of survival as both men, disputing a number of line calls, received treatment before the fifth set. Hewitt, already nursing a sore right thigh, had a massage on the left one this time. Facing his 22nd set in five matches, spread over 17 hours, Nalbandian had a blister on his left foot.

Nalbandian had Hewitt constantly on the run with side-to-side groundstrokes and drop volleys that had him dashing to the net.

But Hewitt again showed he deserves his reputation as an "Aussie batter," feeding off the cheering, clapping, flag-waving fans.

Nalbandian, with his own fist pumps and shouts of "Yankee! Let's Go!" — saved three break points while serving at 1-1 and another at 5-5. Hewitt finally broke through with a backhand half-volley down the line to pull ahead 9-8, then held for the match at love on a forehand winner. The final set took 1:41.

The 22-year-old Roddick reached the Australian Open semifinals in 2003, losing to Rainer Schuettler after he'd clinched a draining quarterfinal win over Morocco's Younes El Aynaoui with the longest fifth set in Grand Slam history at 21-19.

"It's been pretty smooth sailing so far," said Roddick, who has only dropped one set in five matches, that could end up being a good thing. "I don't have many miles on me so far."

Davydenko complained of breathing problems just before finishing off a straight-sets quarterfinal victory. He called for the trainer in the second set after Roddick broke him for a 3-2 lead.



AP

**Third-seeded Leyton Hewitt, above, needed 4 hours and 5 minutes to defeat David Nalbandian 6-3, 6-2, 1-6, 3-6, 10-8 on Wednesday.**

"We played a couple really long points and then he made a couple easy errors afterwards, after those long points," Roddick said. "When he called the trainer, I figured he had to be struggling a little bit, especially when I saw him with the inhaler. It looked pretty serious."

Davydenko recovered briefly, breaking back in the next game as Roddick committed his only two double-faults. But Davydenko was soon laboring again and finally retired after getting broken for the second time in the third set to trail 4-1. He received medical treatment for more than an hour after the match.

"It was very hot," Davydenko said. "I couldn't breathe. I cannot run, I cannot control the ball. I don't know what it is."

On the women's side, top-seeded Lindsay Davenport, healthy after a bout of bronchitis just before the Australian Open, outlasted Olympic bronze medalist Alicia Molik, seeded 10th, 6-4, 4-6, 9-7.

She will face France's Nathalie Dechy, who reached a Grand Slam semifinal for the first time after failing to get past the fourth round in 36 previous majors. Dechy, seeded 19th, ousted No. 12 Patty Schnyder 5-7, 6-1, 7-5 in another 2-hour, 33-minute quarterfinal.

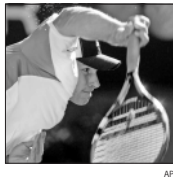
While the two women's quarterfinals lasted exactly the same time — 2:33 — Davenport headed

back out to advance to the doubles finals with Corina Morariu in a three-set victory that took another 1:44. She said she never considered defaulting to improve her singles prospects.

"It's my partner's birthday," Davenport said between matches. "And I feel fine."

She has only about 20 hours to recover, taking the court after fourth-seeded Maria Sharapova and No. 7 Serena Williams meet in a rematch of last year's Wimbledon final, in which the 17-year-old Sharapova won her first Grand Slam title.

"It's tough to come back again tomorrow," Davenport said.



AP

**Andy Roddick has lost only one set in five matches in Melbourne.**

## Australian Open

**Wednesday**  
**At Melbourne Park**  
**Melbourne, Australia**  
**Purse: \$14.5 million (Grand Slam)**  
**Surface: Hard-Outdoor**  
**Singles**

**Men**  
Andy Roddick (12), United States, def. Nikolay Davydenko (26), Russia, 6-3, 7-5, 4-1, retired.  
Leyton Hewitt (3), Australia, def. David Nalbandian (9), Argentina, 6-3, 6-2, 1-6, 3-6, 10-8.

**Women**  
**Quarterfinals**  
Lindsay Davenport (1), United States, def. Alicia Molik (10), Australia, 6-4, 4-6, 9-7.  
Nathalie Dechy (19), France, def. Patty Schnyder (12), Switzerland, 5-7, 6-1, 7-5.

**Doubles**  
**Quarterfinals**  
Wayne Black and Kevin Ullyett (5), Zimbabwe, def. Mahesh Bhupathi, India, and Todd Woodbridge (2), Australia, 7-5 (3), 6-3.  
Johan Bjorkman, Sweden, and Mats Mirnyi (4), Belarus, def. Michael Llodra and Fabrice Santoro (6), France, 7-6 (2), 7-5.

**Semifinals**  
Svetlana Kuznetsov, Russia, and Alicia Molik (8), Australia, def. Anastasia Myskina and Vera Zvonareva (7), Russia, 6-2, 6-3.  
Lindsay Davenport and Corina Morariu (15), United States, def. Gabriela Pavlovic and Michaela Pastikova, Czech Republic, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3.

**Mixed**  
**Second Round**  
Bob Bryan, United States, and Vera Zvonareva (8), Russia, def. Frantisek Cermak, Czech Republic, and Katarina Srebotnik, Slovenia, 6-3, 6-2.

**Quarterfinals**  
Andy Ram, Israel, and Conchita Martinez, Spain, def. Daniel Nestor (1), Canada, and Andrei Stetsko (1), Australia, 7-5, 6-7 (3), 7-6 (12).  
Scott Draper and Samantha Stosur, Australia, def. Wayne Arthurs and Trudi Musgrave, Scotland, 6-2, 7-6 (7).

**Match statistics**  
**Leyton Hewitt (3) def. David Nalbandian (9), 6-3, 6-2, 1-6, 3-6, 10-8**

Leyton Hewitt	David Nalbandian
1st Serve Percentage	50 62
2nd Serve Percentage	46 59
Double Faults	6 4
Unforced Errors	69 69
1st Serve Winning Pct.	73 71
2nd Serve Winning Pct.	51 45
Winners (in service)	26 26
Break Points	6-16 12-22
Net Points	2-23 20-25
Total Points Won	158 153
Time of Match	4:50

**Lindsay Davenport (1) def. Alicia Molik (10), 6-4, 4-6, 9-7**

Lindsay Davenport	Alicia Molik
1st Serve Percentage	56 60
2nd Serve Percentage	46 50
Double Faults	14 14
Unforced Errors	40 39
1st Serve Winning Pct.	67 67
2nd Serve Winning Pct.	40 43
Winners (in service)	22 25
Break Points	5-9 14-15
Net Points	25-34 9-12
Total Points Won	119 114
Time of Match	1:53

**Nathalie Dechy (19) def. Patty Schnyder (12), 5-7, 6-1, 7-5**

Nathalie Dechy	Patty Schnyder
1st Serve Percentage	74 71
2nd Serve Percentage	50 50
Double Faults	1 1
Unforced Errors	50 35
1st Serve Winning Pct.	60 67
2nd Serve Winning Pct.	42 35
Winners (in service)	22 16
Break Points	6-12 10-15
Net Points	29-49 12-15
Total Points Won	111 108
Time of Match	1:53

**Thursday's featured matches**

**Red Rover Arena**  
Maria Sharapova (4), Russia vs. Serena Williams (7), United States  
Nathalie Dechy (19), France vs. Marat Safin (4), Russia

# Davenport digs deep to break through to semis

BY JOHN PYTE

The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Lindsay Davenport overcame determined local hope Alicia Molik, 6-4, 4-6, 9-7 on Wednesday to reach the Australian Open semifinals for the first time in four seasons.

Top-ranked Davenport twice served for the match in the third set, needing to fend off two break points in the last game before closing the 2-hour, 33-minute match with a powerful forehand that Molik could not reach.

"There were a lot of ups and downs out here," Davenport said. "I'm not sure who I'm standing here."

"I felt I was really lucky today — after failing to finish it off at 5-4. She had a lot of momentum and I'm not sure exactly how I was able to get it back."

Davenport faces 19th-seeded Nathalie Dechy in the semifinals after the Frenchwoman beat Switzerland's Patty Schnyder 5-7, 6-1, 7-5 in another 2-hour, 33-minute quarterfinal.

At times against Molik, Davenport looked despondent and frustrated, making 40 unforced errors and an uncharacteristic 11 double-faults — including one to give the Australian the second set.

But the 28-year-old American, on the verge of retiring until surging to No. 1 in the rankings

late in 2004, tightened up her game and played mostly percentages in the last four games.

"My game revolves around my serve, and I struggled a bit," Davenport said. "I just got out of complete rhythm. I have to be up there and take more time in serving well."

"I'm still able to win and get her back at the end."

Davenport won the Australian Open in 2000, the last of her three Grand Slam titles, but hasn't been back to the semis here since 2001.

Tenth-seeded Molik, who will be 24 on Thursday, sometimes ruffled Davenport but had lapses because of inexperience. It was her first Grand Slam quarterfinal and she was the first Australian woman to advance so far in the national championship since 1988.

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Kansas' Wayne Simien (23) celebrates with Sasha Kaun (24) and Michael Lee during the final minute of the Jayhawks' 86-66 win over Baylor.

## Refocused Kansas sprints past Baylor

The Associated Press

WACO, Texas — While no longer undefeated, No. 6 Kansas stayed perfect in the Big 12 with a record-breaking game.

The Jayhawks put a surprising loss to Villanova behind them in a hurry. Wayne Simien scored seven of his 18 points in a game-opening 15-2 run, and Kansas set a school record with 16 three-pointers in an 86-66 win over Baylor on Tuesday night.

"I visibly noticed a change in attitude," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "It was a refocused group. The team coming to Villanova and winning this game was a very big game, and I thought we came out and played accordingly."

The 83-62 loss at Villanova on Saturday knocked Kansas (15-1, 5-0) down from the ranks of the undefeated. The misery of their trip got extended when they got stuck in Philadelphia an extra day because of the weekend blizzard that hit the Northeast.

Baylor (9-7, 1-4) never got closer than seven points after the opening sprint. And the Jayhawks kept taking advantage of a zone defense, first going inside to Simien and then outside for the long-range shots.

"The middle of the zone was very vulnerable," Simien said. "Once we got the entry pass into there ... there were easy shots for the post guys and then the deep threes for our other guys."

Simien didn't attempt a three-pointer, but the four other Kansas players who scored in double figures made at least three threes each.

Jeff Hawkins, trying to work his way back into the playing rotation, was 5-for-5 on three-pointers for 15 points in just 13 minutes.

Hawkins was suspended from the team for unspecified rules violations during the offseason, then relegated to the end of the bench. The junior, who played in 31 games last season, had been on the court just 13 minutes all season before playing 17 against Villanova.

"He's gone from not even being on the team, to serious minutes and making shots. That helps everybody," said Keith Langford, who scored 17 points.

### Men's Top 25 Roundup

"He's been in the doghouse a couple of months, but kept a good attitude," said Self, adding that Hawkins has earned the chance to play more.

J.R. Giddens added 14 points for Kansas, and Aaron Miles had 11.

Giddens hit a three-pointer with 5:28 left that made it 79-55. It was the 15th three for the Jayhawks, tying the school record set against North Carolina State in December 1994.

Langford hit the record 16th three with 1:45 left. The Jayhawks were 16-for-27 from beyond the arc.

"We probably put too much focus on guarding the high post and they exposed that weakness," said Baylor freshman guard Aaron Bruce, who had 23 points.

**No. 7 Kentucky 84, Tennessee 62:** Patrick Sparks scored 19 points for the visiting Wildcats (15-2, 6-0 Southeastern Conference), who lost senior forward Chuck Hayes, their second-leading scorer and top rebounder, to a broken nose in the first half.

Chris Lofton had 17 points for the Volunteers (10-9, 3-3).

**No. 16 Texas 80, Texas Tech 73:** Freshman Daniel Gibson was 6-for-6 from three-point range and scored 20 points for the Longhorns (15-4, 4-2 Big 12). They went 14-for-21 from three-point range and made at least 10 threes for the eighth time this season.

Ronald Ross scored 29 points for visiting Texas Tech (11-5, 3-2), which came in as the Big 12's top-scoring team but shot just 37 percent.

**No. 19 Connecticut 68, West Virginia 58:** Rashad Anderson, not starting for the first time this season, scored 16 of his 22 points in the second half to lead the Huskies (12-4, 4-2 Big East), who had a 47-27 rebound advantage.

Connecticut played in Morgantown for the first time since 1999. Tyrone Sully scored 16 points for the Mountaineers (11-6, 1-5), who lost their fifth straight.

## Dissenter explains Duke vote

BY DAVID HAUGH  
Chicago Tribune

MADISON, Wis. — Sports-writer Austin Bishop got home Monday night from his job at the Ne-shoba Democrat newspaper in Philadelphia, Miss., and called his teenage son into the living room.

Grimacing, he showed the boy the latest Associated Press college basketball poll in which 71 of 72 national media voters ranked Illinois the best team in America. A lone dissenter put Duke atop his ballot, preventing the Illini from becoming the first unanimous No. 1 team since the Blue Devils in 2001-2002.

"I told my son, 'Bradley, I think Daddy's going to be in the news this week,'" Bishop said on the phone Tuesday.

Daddy voted for Duke. "Bradley said to me, 'Daddy, why were you only one? Why?' Bishop recalled.

That might be a question bandied about on the Illinois badman, getting more crowded after the Illini broke Wisconsin's 38-game home winning streak Tuesday night with a 75-65 comeback victory over the Badgers at the Kohl Center.

Bishop watched from home. Tabbed to vote in the poll for the first time after 27 years in the business, he had ranked the Illini 1 since their victory over Wisconsin on Dec. 1. But after seeing Illinois struggle last Thursday to a 73-68 overtime victory

over Iowa and Duke rout Florida State 88-56, he followed his conscience right down Tobacco Road.

"I weighed the conferences, and I just think what Duke is doing is in the ACC is slightly more impressive than what Illi-nois is doing against Big Ten competition," said Bishop, who covers Mississippi State and the out-eastern Conference for the Democrat, a 17,000-circulation newspaper in east-central Mississippi.

The state's only AP voter, Bishop has seen Illinois play five times on television. He follows the same routine and rationale before voting every Sunday. He prints out the week's results from Top 25 teams, goes to church, comes home and waits until the last game finishes before filling out his poll.

"I think it's a voter's job to re-evaluate his vote every week," said Bishop, 46. "I don't like the way a lot of guys vote, like they're invincible and their 1-2-3 teams can't change week to week. It should be like March Madness every week. Things can change."

They likely will after Illinois' 20th victory in a setting that, since December 2002, had been even more inhospitable to visitors than Duke's Cameron Indoor Stadium. Bishop conceded a victory over Wisconsin and subsequent victory over Minnesota on Saturday would vault Illinois back ahead of Duke on his next ballot.

"Frankly, that's what I'd probably do, especially if Duke strug-

gles," Bishop said. "It's a different week."

He takes an open mind to the polls. Four weeks ago, for example, Bishop did not even include unbeaten Boston College in the Top 25.

This week, he nudged the 16-0 Eagles up to third.

"I was not trying to be controversial," Bishop said. "If my vote was off the wall and I had ranked Mississippi State or someone like that No. 1, I could see how people would be upset."

As of Tuesday night, Bishop had yet to be buried in an avalanche of insults from Illini Nation, but kidded he would prefer keeping his e-mail address and office phone number out of the Chicago papers. He expected to hear more from Mississippi State fans angry with him for dropping their favorite team to No. 24.

"There's nothing I don't like about Illinois," he said. "I'm very intrigued by their team and they're just as deserving as Duke. ... But you can't vote for No. 1 and No. 1-A."

Only one other time since he started in the business could Bishop recall having to defend his logic publicly. That came at the beginning of his career when Bishop listed former Bears and Georgia kicker Kevin Butler third on his Heisman Trophy ballot.

"That was maybe a little out there," he said, chuckling. "But I don't want people up there to think I did not put a lot of thought into this. I really did."

## Home: Badgers fade down the stretch

HOME, FROM BACK PAGE

"We picked it up defensively," Weber said. "I'm not sure if they got a little stagnant or tight as it got down the stretch or if we just defended well."

Deron Williams added 13 points and Roger Powell Jr. had 11 for Illinois, which led 35-33 at halftime despite going scoreless over the final 4:26 before the break.

"We've had a lot of good wins, Wake Forest, Gonzaga," Williams said. "But with this streak that they had here and the history of the building, this is tops right now."

Sharif Chambliss added 14 points for Wisconsin and Mike Wilkinson scored 13.

The Badgers were just 5-for-12 from the free throw line, and Illinois was 17-for-20.

Wisconsin's average margin of victory during its winning streak was 20.4 points and it appeared for a moment that this one might be another Badgers' blowout when Tucker's three-pointer gave Wisconsin a 56-48 lead with 12:40 remaining.

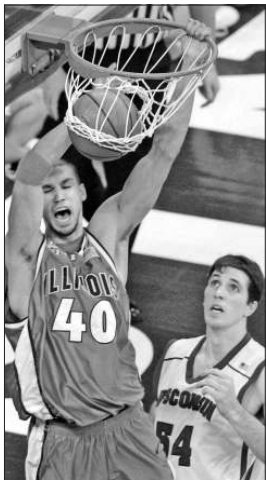
After an Illinois timeout, the Badgers had a chance to go up by double digits — the most the Illini had trailed this season was by nine at Purdue on Jan. 8, but Andreas Helmigk traveled, and the Badgers unraveled.

Rich McBride's three-pointer was followed by two free throws from Williams and two more from Head. After Taylor's basket gave the Badgers a 58-55 lead, Ingram hit consecutive threes to cut Illinois' 13-2 run and give the Illini a 61-58 lead.

"This is a great moment," Weber said. "They're enjoying it in the locker room. This is the most excited they have been all year, even more than they were at [then-No. 1] Wake Forest. They are truly proud of themselves. They really wanted to come in here and break the streak."

Wilkinson, who played in all 38 straight home-court victories, said the Badgers won't sulk about the end of the streak.

"It's over," he said. "We've got to move on."



Illinois' James Augustine dunks in front of Wisconsin's Mike Wilkinson in the second half Tuesday night in Madison, Wis. Illinois won 75-65.

# Marlins land prized free agent Delgado

BY STEVEN WINE  
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Those fans in the distant right-field bleachers at the Florida Marlins' ballpark may finally catch some souvenirs from the home team, courtesy of Carlos Delgado.

Florida added much-needed left-handed power to the lineup Tuesday when the free-agent slugger agreed to a \$52 million, four-year contract. The deal, which includes an option year making it potentially worth \$64 million over five seasons, is contingent on Delgado passing a physical Wednesday, the Marlins said.

"I feel Florida offers me a real opportunity to win a championship, which is what I'm looking for at this stage of my career," Delgado told a Puerto Rican newspaper, *El Vocero*. "This is a very talented team, very aggressive at



Delgado

the plate. They have a good combination of speed and power."

The Marlins' spacious park has long been considered especially tough on left-handed hitters. Their top lefty power hitter last season, Hecy Soto Choi, hit eight home runs at home before being traded in July.

Florida figures Delgado should do better.

"We studied every one of his home runs he hit last year," owner Jeffrey Loria said. "Every one would have been out of our place, with the exception of one."

Delgado, 32, hit 32 homers with

99 RBIs in 2004. He also drew attention for protesting the U.S.-Iraq war by refusing to stand when "God Bless America" was played at ballparks across the majors.

He hit at least 30 homers each of the past eight seasons in Toronto.

"He's got numbers that are quite spectacular," Loria said.

"It's always 30 to 40-something home runs, always 100-plus RBIs, and it's a presence and a kind of person we like to have on this ballclub."

With the agreement, the Marlins become perhaps the team to beat in the NL East. They won the World Series in 1997 and 2003, but are still seeking their first division title.

They also want to win support for a new ballpark.

"We're about trying to be a very competitive ballclub, and

the stadium will take care of itself in due time," Loria said. "But Carlos certainly is not going to hurt that effort."

To land the most formidable left-handed power hitter in the Marlins' 12-year history, it took their richest per-season deal.

Florida outbid the New York Mets, Texas and Baltimore.

The Mets also made a \$52 million, four-year offer, of which \$2 million was the buyout of a fifth-year option. Delgado's side calculated that in present-day value, New York's offer was worth \$30 million more than Florida's.

"From day one, we have told everyone that Carlos would make his choice based on where he felt he had the best chance to win a World Series," wrote his agent, David Sloane, in an e-mail. "I'm proud to say that is exactly why he made the choice he made."

## Police still searching for Urbina's kidnapped mother

The Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — Kidnapping of the mother of Detroit Tigers pitcher Ugueth Urbina have demanded a \$3 million ransom, but have not contacted the family in several weeks, Venezuelan police said Tuesday.

Ten police detectives in an anti-kidnaping unit are on the case and are believed to have

Baseball  
briefs

54-year-old Maura Villarreal is still being held hostage. Police said the strategy of making no contact is a common ploy used by kidnappers in the South American country.

Urbina's mother disappeared from her home on the outskirts of Caracas on Sept. 1. Police have said they believe she was taken by four men who arrived wearing police uniforms.

Police also have said they believe a mechanic who happened to be working on a motorcycle at the house was taken away along with Urbina's mother.

A senior police official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said it had been difficult for the family to accept police involvement because they fear for Villarreal's life.

The official confirmed Venezuelan news reports that the amount of ransom demanded was about \$3 million, but he also said the figure had varied over time and that initially the kidnappers had demanded \$6 million.

Urbina left the Tigers in September to travel to Venezuela following his mother's disappearance. He has declined comment on the case.

### Nitkowski, Erickson agree to minor league deals

Left-hander C.J. Nitkowski and the Minnesota Twins agreed Tuesday to a minor league contract, and Scott Erickson agreed to a minor league deal with the Los Angeles Dodgers after being released from spring training as a non-roster invite.

Nitkowski went 2-1 with a 5.73 ERA over 33 innings for the Atlanta Braves and the New York Yankees last season. He would get a \$500,000, one-year contract if he is added to Minnesota's major league roster.

Originally drafted by the Cincinnati Reds with the ninth overall selection in 1994, Nitkowski has a 180-32 career record and 5.35 ERA with seven teams.

Erickson, a 36-year-old right-hander, was 1-4 in six starts with the New York Mets and Texas Rangers last season, working only 27 innings. He didn't pitch in 2001 after elbow ligament replacement surgery and in 2003 after undergoing a shoulder operation.

He is 1-11-132 in 13 big league seasons with Minnesota, Baltimore, Texas and the Mets.

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## SPORTS

Delgado finally picks his team,  
signs with Marlins,  
Page 31



# Illini perfect home wreckers

## Top-ranked team wins 20th game in row, ends Wisconsin's home string

BY ARNIE STAPLETON

The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — One dazzling streak ended and another endured.

Top-ranked Illinois beat No. 18 Wisconsin 75-65 on Tuesday night, extending the nation's longest winning streak to 20 games and ending the nation's longest homecourt winning streak at 38.

Led by Luther Head's 18 points and reserve Jack Ingram's clutch play down the stretch, Illinois became the first team to beat the Badgers at the Kohl Center since Wake Forest on Dec. 4, 2002.

They did it by scoring 14 of the game's final 15 points after overcoming an eight-point deficit midway through the second half.

Illinois coach Bruce Weber, who had peddled his team as the underdog despite eight straight weeks atop the poll, said the biggest thing about the Illini's first win in Madison since 1998 was what it meant in the Big Ten race, where the Illini are 6-0.

"I told the kids if we win this one, we're going to be one up on everyone because I don't know if anyone's capable of coming in here and winning besides us after the Michigan State loss, so it gives us one up for the Big Ten championship," Weber said.

And that's what bothered the Badgers, who fell to 53-3 at home under Bo Ryan, who lost a Big Ten home game for the first time in his four seasons as coach.

"The guys weren't worried about losing any streak. It was a Big Ten conference game. That's all we were playing for," said Ryan, whose teams are 26-1 at home in the league since he took over in 2001.

The Badgers (13-4, 4-2) led 56-48 with 10½ minutes left and were still up by three with 4½ minutes remaining and the arena at its earsplitting best.

Sore-footed Alando Tucker, who led Wisconsin with 16 points, drove to the basket to give the Badgers a 64-61 with 4:31 left, but dreams of Wisconsin's first win over a top-ranked opponent since beating Ohio State in 1962 soon faded.

James Augustine, who was limited by foul trouble to 4 minutes in the first half, made two free throws with 4:11 left and Jack Ingram did the same at 3:39, putting the Illini ahead for good, 65-64.

Augustine, who scored 12 of his 14 points in the second half, added consecutive dunks to make it 69-64, the first one coming off a steal by Ingram.

The Badgers' most recent home win came when they scored the final 11 points of the game to beat Michigan State 62-59 but there was no such miracle in store for them this time.

The only break in Illinois' run came when Kamron Taylor made one free throw with 1:07 left to make it 71-65.

SEE HOME ON PAGE 30



Illinois' Jack Ingram (50) knocks the ball away from Wisconsin's Mike Wilkinson in the second half Tuesday night in Madison, Wis. Illinois won 75-65, ending Wisconsin's homecourt winning streak at 38 games.

**Hewitt pushes his way past Nalbandian in four-hour, five set victory in Australian; Well-rested Roddick is his semifinal foe**

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**Owens says he's through cheerleading despite doctor saying he won't give clearance for Eagles receiver to play in Super Bowl**

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**Suns, Sonics each put on a show from three-point range** Page 27